

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME FICTION CONVENTION



17-20 MAY 2018

Featured Guest Authors

Lee Child
Martina Cole
Jeffery Deaver
Peter James
Yrsa Sigurðardóttir
Gunnar Staalesen

Gala Dinner Toastmaster

Robert Thorogood
*creator of *Death in Paradise**

Highlighted Guest Authors

'Maigret and Beyond' with
John Banville & John Simonon
(aka Benjamin Black)

'Legacies: John le Carré vs Ian Fleming' with
Charlie Higson & Adam Sisman

Presentations for:

Audible Sounds of Crime Award
Best Crime Novel for Children
Best Crime Novel for Young Adults
eDunnit Award
H.R.F. Keating Award
Last Laugh Award

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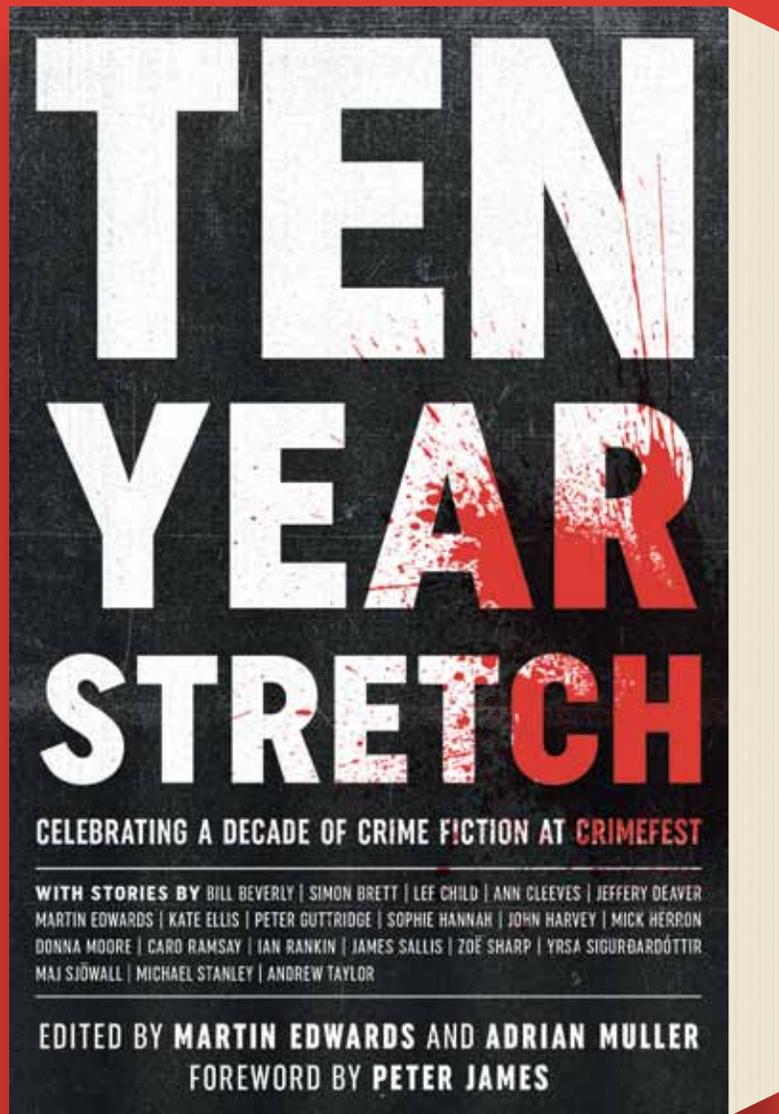
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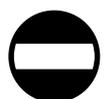
OUT NOW



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CRIME FICTION AT CRIMEFEST

WITH STORIES BY BILL BEVERLY | SIMON BRETT | LEE CHILD | ANN CLEEVES | JEFFERY DEAVER
MARTIN EDWARDS | KATE ELLIS | PETER GUTTRIDGE | SOPHIE HANNAH | JOHN HARVEY | MICK HERRON
DONNA MOORE | CARO RAMSAY | IAN RANKIN | JAMES SALLIS | ZOË SHARP | YRSA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR
MAJ SJÖWALL | MICHAEL STANLEY | ANDREW TAYLOR

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WELCOME FROM THE CO-HOSTS

Welcome from the co-hosts. This is CrimeFest's tenth anniversary and we invite you to join in the celebrations!

So what do we have for you in 2018? Royalty and a big match! No, nothing so mundane as the wedding or a cup final. It's much better than that: crime writing royalty and a battle over two spymasters. Not forgetting our celebratory present to all our delegates: *Ten Year Stretch – Celebrating a Decade of CrimeFest*, an anthology of twenty new stories by authors who have all previously attended the convention. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. We wanted to do something special for the occasion and have a mix of new and favourite Featured Guest Authors: Lee Child, Martina Cole, Jeffery Deaver, Peter James, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir and Gunnar Staalesen. There was no question in our mind that we wanted Jeff and Lee back, as they have always been here on key occasions. Peter James has also been a loyal supporter, and Yrsa has attended every single CrimeFest. However, as all of them have been individually interviewed at least once, how were we going to keep things fresh? By teaming them up! So, on to the 'new' front: Martina Cole and Gunnar Staalesen. We have invited Martina on previous occasions, but May always clashed with her finalising her latest novel. Turns out that all it took was an invite from her mate Peter to appear with him, and here she is! And who to team with Yrsa as a Featured Guest? Gunnar Staalesen, of course! He has become increasingly well known since first attending in 2012. Gunnar, like Yrsa, is a Petrona winner – the award for best Scandinavian crime novel, the presentation of which CrimeFest is proud to host on behalf of the Petrona organisers.

Our other guests are John Banville, the Booker Prize winner who writes crime as Benjamin Black (providing further proof that there is no distinction between 'literature' and genre fiction); John Simonon, discussing his father Georges' legendary creation in 'Maigret and Beyond'; Charlie Higson and Adam Sisman. It is Charlie, author of children's novels featuring Ian Fleming's James Bond and Adam, award-winning biographer of John le Carré, who are doing battle over the two spymasters, trying to establish who the better writer is, and who will have the longer legacy.

Our Toastmaster this year is Robert Thorogood, creator of *Death In Paradise* and now also author of the books based on the popular Caribbean-based television series. We will be looking to him to add a light touch to the Gala Award Dinner where, in addition to brief speeches by the Featured Guests, we will be announcing the winners of the CrimeFest Awards. We are grateful to HarperCollins and Kimberley Chambers for hosting the pre-Gala reception where they will be launching the Kickstart Prize – to help writers who need a leg up – during the event.

And, we welcome back the Crime Writers' Association who will be announcing the nominees for their Dagger Awards and winner of the Margery Allingham Short Story Competition during the annual Friday evening reception. We also have two quizzes: Thursday's opening night pub quiz with Quiz Master Peter Guttridge, with a complimentary drink from the Marriott (whilst stocks last!) for attendees. Sunday's closing CrimeFest panel sees the return of Mike 'the Ripster' Ripley's 'I'm Sorry I Haven't A Cluedo' quiz, a highlight of the 2016 convention. The quiz has very few rules (and those that do exist are rarely abided by) but lots of laughs. Courtesy of the Iceland Noir organisers, one lucky attendee will win a pass and flight to their convention this November. Mike has asked us to make sure to say that those who are easily offended should be sure to get a seat near the front of the stage. Finally, CrimeFest is made possible through the support and attendance of authors, readers and industry people. To those of you who are returning: THANK YOU for a fabulous ten years! To the newcomers, grab a chair and join in. We've already forgotten that this is your first time and, by Sunday, so will you.

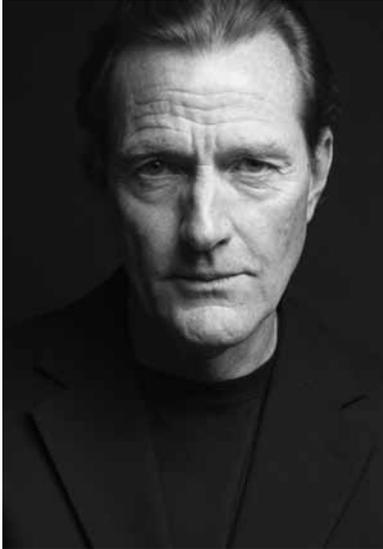
– Myles Allfrey, Donna Moore and Adrian Muller.



FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR

LEE CHILD

BY JAKE KERRIDGE



Jim Grant from Birmingham is better known these days as Lee Child: New York resident, creator of Jack Reacher, and an author who sells a book somewhere in the world every twenty seconds. But despite his stratospheric success, he's not somebody who forgets his old friends.

Lee is one of the longest-standing supporters of CrimeFest. Back in 2006 he was the toastmaster at Left Coast Crime, the 'pilot' version of CrimeFest, and has made many return visits since then. And he's no doubt turned down many invitations from his Hollywood mates (we've all heard of Tom Cruise's famous Eurovision parties, right?) to be with us again this year to celebrate CrimeFest's official tenth anniversary. We salute his loyalty, but really we all know that this guy who's seen and done it all keeps coming back because he knows there are few things more fun than hanging out with a bunch of crime writers and readers in Bristol.

Whenever he attends the convention, you'll see readers flocking towards him. This is partly because our attendees want to bask in the presence of one of the legendary stars of crime fiction. Often, however, it's just because people want him to pass them books from the higher shelves in the CrimeFest bookshop: he's one of the tallest, as well as one of the best, of today's crime writers.

Funnily enough, his height (I'd judge him to be not far off Jack Reacher's six foot five) has played a significant part in his success. In the 1990s he had been made redundant from his job at Granada Television and was hoping to find success as a novelist. On a trip to the supermarket he received the usual requests from more vertically challenged shoppers to pass them items from the top shelves, and his wife observed that if the writing didn't work out he could always get a job as a 'reacher' in a supermarket. In that moment was born the perfect name for one of the most memorable characters in modern fiction – would we have heard of Lee Child today if he'd called his hero Jack Smith?

Jack Reacher is one of those tough heroes who can be as unscrupulous as the villains but in a better cause, loners who mosey into town and don't leave until they've made the world a slightly better place; a man who doesn't use two words when one will do, and won't use one when he can reduce an opponent to jelly with a silent glare. Reacher is part of a storytelling tradition that stretches back to the western and further back into the founding myths of civilisation. But Child's novels always feel up to the minute too: they read like the work of a man who seems to know what makes today's world tick.

It used to be said that James Bond was such a successful character because men wanted to be him and women wanted to sleep with him. Of Jack Reacher it's probably fair to say that you can find huge numbers of readers of either sex in most countries on the globe who want to simultaneously be him, sleep with him, have his babies and adopt him. (And he makes James Bond look like Sheldon Cooper.) But really I think the appeal of Reacher lies in the fact that we all want there to be somebody like him out there fighting injustice, someone hard of head (and bicep) but, deep down, soft of heart.

Lee Child will be at CrimeFest to talk about his twenty-second Reacher novel, *The Midnight Line*, and maybe sow a few clues about the next book in the series, *Past Tense*. There may also be some chat about the Reacher movies starring Tom Cruise, what it was like to be shadowed over the course of a year for Andy Martin's book *Reacher Said Nothing*, and discussion of some of his own favourite writers (and those of us who saw him interview Maj Sjöwall at CrimeFest in 2015 know that this superstar author can easily turn fanboy).

Perhaps we'll learn the truth about how similar Lee Child really is to his famous character – though let's hope he's not quite as taciturn. Of course, those who've seen him at CrimeFest before know that he's a great raconteur as well as a thoroughly nice chap. And a very useful man to have around if you've mislaid your stepladder.

– Jake Kerridge is the crime fiction critic of the *Daily Telegraph*.

FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR

MARTINA COLE

BY PETER GUTTRIDGE

When is Martina Cole going to be awarded the Crime Writers' Association's Diamond Dagger? It's given for an 'outstanding contribution' to crime fiction – recent deserving winners have included Ann Cleeves, Peter James, Catherine Aird, Simon Brett and Lee Child – so she should be a shoo-in.

Her outstanding contribution is not to do with numbers. The fact that, since her massively successful 1992 debut novel *Dangerous Lady*, she's sold in the UK alone around 15 million copies of her 24 novels is eye-watering but not the reason.

No, the reason is that she has done what few crime writers achieve. She has single-handedly created a sub-genre of crime fiction. Gangster Girls – empowered women in gangland. Before her, women in gangland were, with rare exceptions, molls, only there to be used and abused at the whim of male gangsters. She changed that and, since she burst upon the crime scene, Gangster Girls has been a thriving sub-genre. However, though many may try to mimic her, there's only one Martina Cole.

Some people are just natural storytellers. And they don't seem ever to want to stop – thank goodness. Martina, who is big on family and splits her time between a late medieval manor house in Kent and a home in northern Cyprus, could have put her feet up years ago. But every year we know we can look forward to another great read. (Most recently *Damaged*.)

But the novels aren't just about the women. Martina said recently: 'I love writing big powerful men and women' – which is probably why movie star Tom Hardy was such a perfect fit for Freddie, the main male character in the TV version of *The Take*.

Other TV adaptations include *Dangerous Lady*, *The Jump* and *The Runaway*. Three novels have also been adapted for the stage by the legendary Theatre Royal, Stratford East in London: *Two Women* (2010); *The Graft* (2011) and *Dangerous Lady* (2012).

Warm, funny and sparky in person, she survived tough times before success came her way. Born in Essex to Irish parents, the youngest of five children, she married when she was sixteen but, sadly, the marriage was over a year later. At eighteen she had her first child. In her early twenties both her parents died.

Throughout her twenties, bringing up her child on her own, she worked low-paid jobs – cleaner, shelf-stacker, agency nurse – but always made time to write. Famously, *Dangerous Lady* was a novel she had stuck in a drawer then dug out some years later to send to a literary agent chosen at random. He called her the next day and within weeks he had sold it for £150,000 to Headline. The rest is our good fortune.

During CrimeFest Martina will be in conversation with another heavy hitter, Peter James. Outstanding.

– Peter Guttridge is a crime novelist and critic.



FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR

JEFFERY DEAVER

BY JAKE KERRIDGE



Back in 2006, when only birds tweeted and books were still made exclusively of paper, Jeffery Deaver was one of the guests of honour at Left Coast Crime in Bristol, a sort of proto-CrimeFest. At that event, Jeff read out a poem inspired by recent newspaper reports predicting that reading was not going to survive in the face of all the other claims on humanity's attention.

His poem, 'The Death of Reading' (re-printed on page 60) begins with the following lines: 'I've got what I think is the very best job. /I have no commute, I can dress like a slob. /I get paid to make up things – isn't that neat?/ Just like at the White House and 10 Downing Street.' Twelve years on part of the poem seems more apposite than ever. And the rest of the poem, suggesting that reports of the death of the book have been greatly exaggerated, has also been proved to be correct. A dozen years on, sales of crime fiction are booming, and Jeff Deaver himself goes from strength to strength.

Like Lee Child, another attendee back in 2006, Jeff has been a big supporter of CrimeFest over the years, and we are delighted to welcome him back again. I can't promise another poem, but then Jeff is kept rather busy by one or two other projects.

Since starting to scribble suspense novels on the commute to his day job as a Wall Street attorney in the 1980s, he has sold more than 20 million copies of his books worldwide. In 1997 he created his most popular character, the quadriplegic forensic detective Lincoln Rhyme, and was once honoured by the children's charity Variety for creating a 'perfect role model for children with disabilities to prove there is life after a disability'.

But although the Rhyme novels celebrate the power of the human brain over the human body, in thrillers there still needs to be plenty of running about and kicking ass, and this comes courtesy of Lincoln's foxy sidekick Amelia Sachs. The dynamic of their relationship was nicely caught by Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie in the 1999 film of *The Bone Collector*, but it's best enjoyed undiluted in the books. In Jeff's new novel, *The Cutting Edge*, Rhyme and Amelia have finally got married, and being the old romantic that he is, Jeff has given them a wedding present – a juicy mystery involving a serial killer who targets couples embarking on their new lives together.

Jeff has a disturbing habit of comparing himself to his most frightening villains. He's likened his plotting technique to the conjuring tricks employed by the sinister David Blaine-style illusionist in *The Vanished Man*: 'Watch the left hand, and the right hand is doing something different. And maybe my foot is doing something different while you look at this hand.'

And of course when he talks about the villain known as 'the Watchmaker' in *The Cold Moon* – 'He constructs these elaborate plots to kill people, doing it with the same skill with which he practises his vocation, which is watch-making and clock-making – with very elaborate gears and levers and dials and springs. And then pushing the button, winding up the clock and letting it run' – he could be describing himself.

'I'm shameless', he once told the *Daily Telegraph*. 'I'll do anything I can to get those readers gasping. I remember there was a cartoon on the cover of *National Lampoon* magazine. It had a cute dog with a gun to its head and a caption saying, buy this magazine or we will kill the dog. I appreciate that. I'll do whatever it takes to get people to turn those pages'. And as you'll find out, he's no easier to resist when he's talking than he is when writing.

Jeff ended his poem back in 2006 with the following verse: 'We traveled for thousands and thousands of miles /From the Continent, States and British Isles. /We've managed to get here by hook and by crook, /For something immortal... our love of the book'. A dozen years on, the appeal of the book seems as immortal as ever, and Jeff Deaver's more than most. What a treat to have him come those thousands and thousands of miles to join us once again.

– Jake Kerridge is the crime fiction critic of the *Daily Telegraph*.

FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR

PETER JAMES

BY PETER GUTTRIDGE

I mean, is this guy something or what? Twelve consecutive *Sunday Times* number ones, *New York Times* bestseller, nineteen million copies of his DS Roy Grace crime novels sold worldwide in thirty-seven languages. Not to mention his early spy thrillers and bestselling horror novels (three of which were adapted for television). But let's certainly mention his earlier life as a film producer with twenty-five movies under his belt, including *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons. And one not so good: *Spanish Fly*, dubbed by Barry Norman, the late great UK film critic, as 'undoubtedly' the worst British film since the Second World War.

He's long been at the cutting edge of new technology – in the 1990s he helped set up an internet service provider in Brighton and in 1994 Penguin published his novel, *Host*, on two floppy discs (remember them?) as the world's first electronic novel. And now he's got his own YouTube Channel.

So far, so digital. But he delights in being analogue too. Not just that shelf of paperbacks and hardbacks he's written but the three adaptations of Roy Grace novels into successful stage plays.

His Roy Grace series is Brighton-based but then Peter is a Brighton Boy from birth. His mother was glovemaker to the Queen (the family business continues) and he was educated at posh Charterhouse school – not an unalloyed pleasure, he recalls – but then film school beckoned, followed by film production for movies and television.

After film producing through the seventies, his first novel, *Dead Letter Drop*, a spy thriller, was published in 1981, but nearly forty years and dozens of books later he shows no sign of slowing up. I'm guessing that's a combination of work ethic and really enjoying what he does.

The urge to tell stories has never dimmed. It might seem like he's a natural and clearly he has the natural storyteller's gift, but his novels are so well-crafted you can see he's a pro who works hard on getting the plots just right and the forward momentum of the Roy Grace story flowing smoothly from novel to novel. (Not necessarily smoothly for Roy, of course.)

I can't see how he can ever sleep since, famously, aside from his prolific writing he spends days at a time with the Sussex police doing the research that makes his novels so authentic; he is the patron of many charities; he is indefatigable in his public appearances and in his championing of crime fiction over more overtly 'literary' works. Oh, and he races classic cars so fervently that in 2013 he almost died in a major accident at Brands Hatch – which stopped him from coming to CrimeFest!

But words are his real love. That and getting his stories down on the page. He usually writes every day – or rather every evening, famously settling down at his desk after his ritual lucky cocktail.

His latest Roy Grace novel comes out 17 May. *Dead If You Don't* sees Roy Grace exploring the dark underbelly of city life when a child is snatched at a football match. It's vintage Peter James and it's as fresh and exuberant as a debut novel.

Peter, a well-deserved recipient of the Crime Writers' Association's Diamond Dagger Award, will be talking about that novel and all things criminal in conversation with Martina Cole here at CrimeFest. That will be a chat and a half, so get your seat early.



– Peter Guttridge is a crime novelist and critic.

FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR

YRSA SIGURDARDÓTTIR

BY BARRY FORSHAW



Yrsa Sigurðardóttir has said 'I really love making people's flesh creep!', and she is a supreme practitioner when it comes to drawing on the heritage of Icelandic literature, channelling ancient folk tales and ghost stories into a vision of modern Icelandic society. Her skilful orchestration of suspense and tension is second to none in the Nordic Noir genre. The dark, frigid nights of Iceland – and its recent dramatic history, including volcanic eruptions and financial crashes – are refracted through the work of the undisputed Queen of Icelandic crime fiction. Yrsa won the prestigious Petrona Award for her novel *The Silence of the Sea* (I can call the award prestigious even though I'm one of the judges), and, as English crime aficionados know, she's ubiquitous in this country. Something we're very grateful for.

Yrsa initially trained as a civil engineer, obtaining a BSc in Civil Engineering in 1989 from the University of Iceland, and went on to study construction management at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. In the Icelandic tradition of dual careers, she still works as a civil engineer today.

Her novel *Why Did You Lie?* figured in many critics' 'best of the year' lists – including those of Marcel Berlins, Andre Paine, Katharina Hall (and mine in the *Financial Times*). If anyone should be foolish enough to question Yrsa's status as crime fiction royalty, a few pages of a typical novel – such as *The Day Is Dark* – should disabuse

them of any doubts. In that book, all contact has been lost with two Icelanders who have been working in an unforgiving and remote area on the north-east coast of Greenland. Yrsa's long-term protagonist Thóra Gudmundsdóttir is hired to investigate, and begins to wonder whether there is any connection with a woman who disappeared from the inhospitable site several months earlier. Her investigations are hardly helped by the implacable hostility of the few locals – and Thóra suspects one of the team at the site may have some involvement with the disappearance. As always with this highly accomplished writer, it is the surefire combination of elements that makes *The Day Is Dark* work so well – the beautifully characterised Thóra (one of the most distinctive protagonists in modern day crime fiction) and the atmosphere of a frigid climate in which the residue of deadly human malfeasance is never far away. But as with all the best books by this writer, it is the mastery of narrative that is absolutely unbreakable. Not for the first time, one is reminded that Yrsa has much in common with horror writers, where the same sense of danger results in that pleasurable rising of the hackles on the back of the neck.

Her 2012 novel *I Remember You* had an almost seismic effect on its original Icelandic readership, with its reputation as being the most unsettling book the author had ever written, even extending to people finding the very packaging (featuring a pair of piercing eyes) deeply disturbing – all, inevitably, grist to the sales mill. Sadly, UK readers didn't get this contentious cover.

The Legacy inaugurated a provocative new venture for Yrsa, the 'Children's House' series. Detective Huldar is out of his depth. His first murder case is like nothing he's seen before – a bizarre attack on a seemingly blameless woman. The only evidence is a list of numbers found at the scene, and the testimony of the victim's eleven-year-old daughter, who isn't talking. While his team attempt to crack the code, Huldar turns to child psychologist Freyja for her expertise with traumatised young people – but time is running out. It's Yrsa Sigurðardóttir on rare form – but then so is virtually all her admirable work. She once said to me that while writing children's books, she 'had accumulated five books' worth of bad thoughts I needed to vent – *Last Rituals* was a kind of release for my darker side'. Let's hope those bad thoughts keep emerging in her work.

– Barry Forshaw is the author of *Nordic Noir* and *Historical Noir*.

FEATURED GUEST AUTHOR GUNNAR STAALESEN

BY BARRY FORSHAW

Bergen may be a beautiful city, but it has its less salubrious side – and Gunnar Staalesen’s volatile detective Varg Veum knows every inch of it. Veum’s creator, author of such superb novels as *The Writing on the Wall*, is extremely civilised company. Not so long ago, he talked to me about his recent royal encounter: it was Staalesen – something of a Norwegian celebrity – who showed Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall around on a visit to Bergen. The ‘Norwegian Chandler’ (as Staalesen has been called) was born in the city, and made his debut at twenty-two. In 1977 he published the first book in the Varg Veum series, which has been published in twenty-four countries, has sold over four million copies, and spawned twelve film adaptations (well made, but not quite capturing the very individual flavour of the books). He has won three Golden Pistols, including the Prize of Honour. The splendid *We Shall Inherit the Wind* (translated by Don Bartlett) is a reminder that Staalesen dislikes Scandinavian provincialism in his writing, and continues to work – bravely, some would say – in a traditional US-style genre. He is an author who eschews police procedural narratives for noirish private eye pieces such as this, with Veum typically on the trail of a missing windfarm inspector and encountering the usual battery of hostility and non-cooperation, along with (more dangerously) environmental terrorism and religious fanaticism. And Staalesen is a contemporary writer; in this book (as so often with him) there is some abrasive Scandicrime social commentary; as Veum says: ‘How could so many people who worked all day for the same admirable purpose – to create a better global environment – end up in their own camp, beneath their own flag, with impassable territorial lines?’



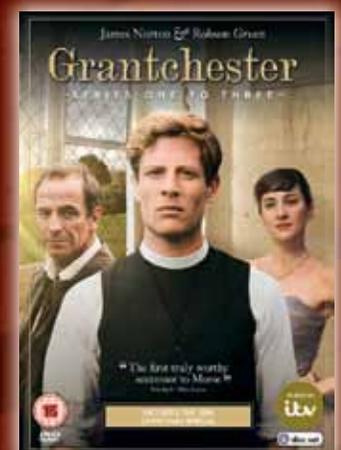
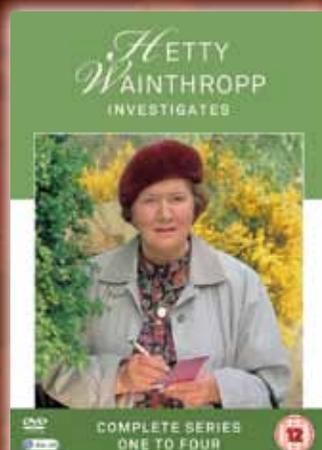
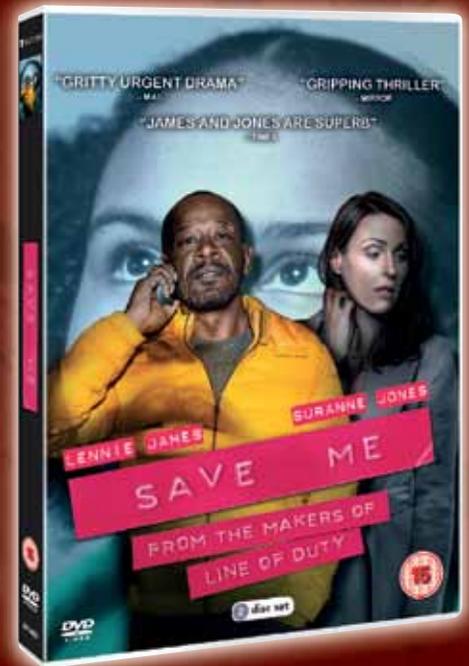
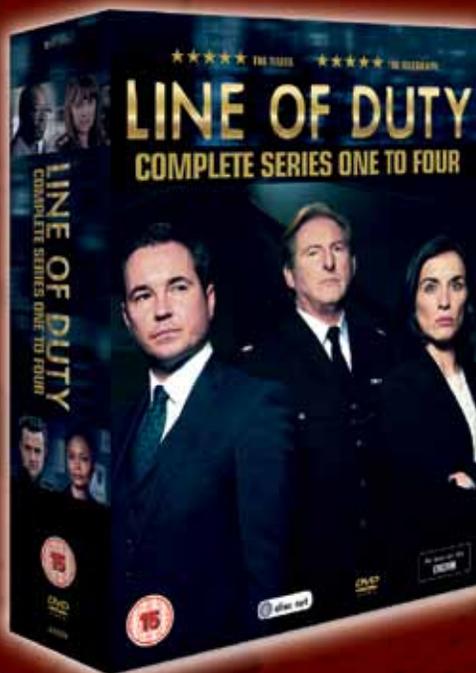
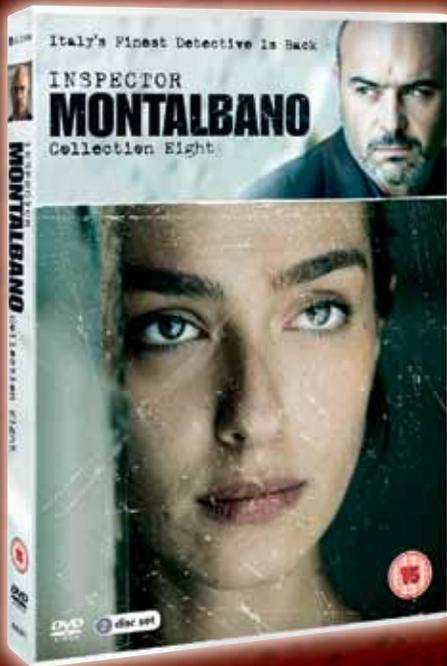
The award-winning *Where Roses Never Die*, equally distinctive, followed to enthusiastic reviews. This is both a coruscating and ambitious novel from the veteran writer, and a radical re-working of his customary materials – perhaps the most accomplished entry in the long-running sequence of books about Varg Veum.

Staalesen strives to keep the parochial at bay in his writing, describing himself as a Norwegian writer of detective novels, but working within an international genre, and drawing on a variety of writers from other countries to recharge his creative batteries (always, above all, he says, ‘The inestimable American Ross Macdonald’ – like many of the best crime writers, Staalesen sees the creator of Lew Archer as a literary lodestone). Nature is a key element for him – as it is, he says, in most Norwegian novels, be they detective or mainstream fiction. ‘Regarding a sense of place,’ he said, ‘it is imperative for me to draw a precise picture of my stamping ground: the second largest city in Norway, Bergen. It’s a rainy city, which ensures that it is the perfect background for my type of noir, private eye stories. Rainswept streets are a satisfying ingredient in this field.’

Staalesen, like his CrimeFest colleague Yrsa Sigurdardóttir, is a recipient of the Petrona Award for translated Scandinavian crime fiction; he won in 2017 with *Where Roses Never Die*. A recent novel in the UK was *Wolves in the Dark*, and the book published this year (available at CrimeFest) bears the knowing title *Big Sister*, a clear tip of the hat to his other American inspiration, Raymond Chandler. Gunnar is now writing number nineteen in the Varg Veum series, hopefully to be published in Norway this autumn and (in all likelihood) in the UK next year, before his publisher Karen Sullivan revisits the series to unearth some of the earlier titles that have not been published in this country.

– Barry Forshaw is author of *Nordic Noir* and *Historical Noir*.

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TOASTMASTER ROBERT THOROGOOD

BY PETER GUTTRIDGE

Thank you to Robert Thorogood for creating the immensely popular *Death In Paradise* TV series! Set in the Caribbean, things couldn't get much better for its actors and guest stars, who get to spend a couple of weeks on one of the most beautiful islands in the world, having such fun. Because *Death In Paradise* is such fun, for audiences even more than performers, that it's now filming its eighth series.

Sure, those gloomy, gritty Scandi-dramas and their British and continental European copies have their (depressing) place in the crime telly canon. But where's the Vitamin D? Well, the massive splash of sunshine that *Death In Paradise* brings to the small screen – plus a large dose of bonhomie and sheer good fun – provides that essential supplement and more.

Not only has Robert written a number of episodes for it, he is also the author of three standalone *Death In Paradise* novels, featuring the TV series' first (and best?) detective, DI Richard Poole. And he's got a wicked and intelligent sense of humour. Which is why he'll make a great toastmaster at this year's CrimeFest.

The Toastmaster (non-gender specific) is an odd job. You have to be entertaining and witty and make sure everyone has a good time. But essentially you're an administrator, holding the evening together. Well, in CrimeFest's case, as together as any event involving crime writers and readers can be... Robert is more than up to this task.

A bit of background. He is, to use affectionately an English technical expression, a posh sod. Independent school in Rutland, history degree from Cambridge where, back in the early nineties, he was in the legendary Footlights troupe of performers. In fact he was President of it in 1994.

Then he set up a theatre company where he directed and acted in, among other things, Molière's *The Miser*, alongside the wonderfully ubiquitous Olivia 'Broadchurch' Colman (currently temporarily leaving crime stuff to play The Queen in the third series of *The Crown*) and the UK comic duo (before they were) Robert Webb and David Mitchell.

He went on to sell loads of scripts to various TV and film companies but only one was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Called *From Abstraction*, it was about Paul Wolfskehl. To save you looking him up, he's the bloke who offered a big prize to anyone who could solve Fermat's Last Theorem. And to save you looking *that* up... er, no – look that up yourself.

He pitched 'Copper in the Caribbean' in 2008 and *Death In Paradise* became Telly Heaven in 2011. And continues to be so. But that doesn't mean Robert isn't still writing – as I hope he'll tell us, in between Guest Authors and awards.



– Peter Guttridge is a crime novelist and critic.

HIGHLIGHTED GUEST AUTHORS

JOHN BANVILLE & JOHN SIMENON

BY MAXIM JAKUBOWSKI



JOHN BANVILLE AND BENJAMIN BLACK

As himself, John Banville is not just a celebrated Booker Prize-winner (for his fourteenth novel *The Sea*, in 2005) and considered as one of the foremost Irish writers of his generation, but he also writes crime novels as Benjamin Black and has had a lifelong appreciation of crime and mystery writing. Add a James Tait Black Memorial Prize and a *Guardian* Fiction Prize (for *Doctor Copernicus*), and a couple of handfuls of further prizes including the Kafka Prize in 2011, and you have a clear idea of his revered standing in the world of letters. So imagine the shock when he began writing crime books as Black in 2006 with *Christine Falls*, the first in seven novels featuring Quirke, a surly but brilliant pathologist and sleuth who was played by Gabriel Byrne in the BBC TV adaptation of the series. Although he openly admits that he sees his crime books as an exercise in craft as opposed to the travails of his literary novels, there is no doubt

that Banville is aware of the traditions of the genre and treasures them, to the extent that he took up the challenge in 2014 to resurrect the character of Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe, at the behest of the Chandler Estate, in *The Black-Eyed Blonde* to hearty critical acclaim. His latest foray into the world of thrillers was *Prague Night* (published as *Wolf on a String* in the USA in 2017), a splendid historical thriller set in 1599. Banville/Black is known for his exquisite style and sense of place and has often acknowledged his admiration for the works of Simenon, and has written a number of reviews and essays on his books in a variety of newspapers and magazines. One wonders, mischievously, would he ever consider writing a new case for Maigret, were he allowed to do so?

JOHN SIMENON

It's generally acknowledged that the children of famous artists sometimes have an awkward time finding their place in the world, overshadowed as they are by the cloud of their parents' sun. And it's usually those who pursue a life in a separate field who make a success of it. John Simenon belongs in that admirable category. Not only has he enjoyed a career in the difficult world of film, but has made an undeniable success of it: first as a major executive on the movie distribution front and now, as a producer – as all along he looks after his father's legacy – keeping the books in print through savvy negotiations with publishers across the world and a mission to keep not just Maigret but the wonderful, and still sometimes under-appreciated *romans durs* to the forefront of book shelves and readers' minds. His first major credit was as producer for the Jeff Goldblum psychological thriller *Mr. Frost* in 1990, followed by participations in a number of French-speaking films and TV programmes. His more recent film achievements have concentrated on highly praised adaptations of his father's novels, like Matthieu Amalric's stunning *La Chambre Bleue* (*The Blue Room*) and the choice of Rowan Atkinson as Maigret in a series of television adaptations featuring the classic Parisian sleuth, which he has worked on as Associate Producer. He is heavily involved in the major forthcoming Simenon exhibition to take place in Bologna, Italy, in 2019 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Georges Simenon's death and the opening of a Simenon research centre there.

– Maxim Jakubowski is a crime reviewer and novelist. His thriller, *The Louisiana Republic*, has just been published.

HIGHLIGHTED GUEST AUTHORS

CHARLIE HIGSON & ADAM SISMAN

BY PETER GUTTRIDGE

The notion of a debate to discuss which of any two authors are 'best' (book prizes notwithstanding) would be doomed from the start, value judgements being so subjective, were it not that at CrimeFest we're playing fast and loose with the concept of 'best'. In the 'Legacies' debate – in which the audience will not only have their say but will also be voting (twice, actually) – our experts, Charlie Higson and Andrew Sisman, will be looking at 'best' from a number of points of view, including, for instance, the quality of the writing and page-turning (or not) prose, the cunning plotting and how these writers might or might not endure.

Ian Fleming and John Le Carré are pretty much polar opposites, even though they share the same genre. But then spy fiction is a baggy genre, with non-stop action at one end and the cerebral at the other; amorality in one corner and moral ambiguity in the other.

'Sex, snobbery and sadism' was the famous headline for the *New Statesman's* disparaging review of Ian Fleming's sixth novel, *Dr No* (1958). The tag stuck, though without noticeably denting books sales around the world (100 million and counting so far) or the popularity of the film versions over six decades.

Ian Fleming's James Bond novels are indelibly imprinted on the cultural landscape of the second half of the twentieth century. Action-packed, brand-label packed and total page-turners, Fleming took his inspiration from his World War II dirty tricks experiences where he was constantly figuring out ways to get one over on the Nazis. One operation (which is possibly an urban legend) which he didn't turn into fiction was when he persuaded Aleister Crowley, The Great Beast and notorious Satanist, to attempt a black magic ritual in Ashdown Forest to engage with top Nazis (reputedly all interested in black magic) on the astral plane. Present was another bestselling author, Dennis Wheatley, who did turn it into fiction. Meanwhile, Wheatley's WWII character, Gregory Sallust, was one of the inspirations for James Bond.

David Cornwell worked for MI5 and MI6 in the 1950s and 1960s. Under the pen name John Le Carré he became an international bestseller with this third spy novel, *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*. Soon after, he left MI6 to become a full-time author. Accustomed to living with secrets – his father was a con-man and Cornwell had spied on fellow students at Oxford for MI5 on the look out for Soviet agents – he was an elusive figure through all the years of bestselling success, rarely giving interviews and eschewing the book festival circuit, with the exception of Hay on Wye in 2013. His novels, spy and post-Cold War non-spy, are by no means action thrillers, dealing as they do with moral ambiguities, psychological traumas and internal conflicts within the context of stunningly created plots. In that regard he has more in common with the downbeat spy world conjured up by Len Deighton than the flash, bang, wallop of Ian Fleming. His latest novel is *A Legacy of Spies*.

Actor, comedian, producer, director, scriptwriter and both adult and young adult novelist Charlie Higson was described by *Time Out* as 'the missing link between Dick Emery and Bret Easton Ellis'. He's speaking for Ian Fleming – but then between 2005 and 2009 he did write six Young Bond novels before moving on to write seven (so far) post-apocalyptic, zombie-horror novels for young adults. In 2015 he also did a ten part TV series *Jekyll and Hyde* set in the 1930s. However, he hasn't left Bond behind. He wrote the television adaptation of *A Caribbean Mystery*, the story that gave *Casino Royale* a name for its protagonist, and in the production played the ornithologist, James Bond.

Meanwhile, Adam Sisman spent four years writing his brilliant *John Le Carré: The Biography* (2015) with the subject's cooperation, only to hear a few days before its publication that Le Carré was writing a memoir, *The Pigeon Tunnel*, to be published the following year. It might have seemed an unfriendly act – Le Carré once grumbled to Sisman about his biography: 'I know it's supposed to be warts and all but so far as I can gather, it's going to be warts and no all' – but in fact the two books sit very happily alongside each other. But then Sisman knows what he's doing. His *Boswell's Presumptuous Task* won the US National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography and was shortlisted for The Whitbread Prize. His other biographies are of A.J.P. Taylor and Hugh Trevor-Roper, the yin and yang of an older generation of historians.

A debate where there will be no losers, just a lot of fun.



– Peter Guttridge is a crime novelist and critic.

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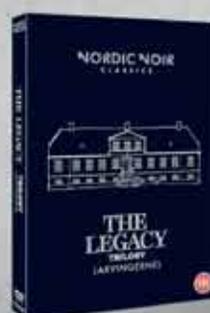
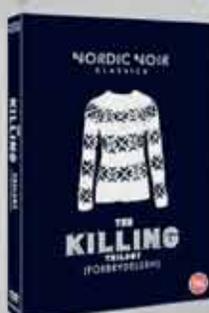
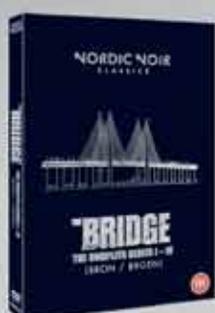
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Cathy Ace is the author of two series. The WISE Enquiries Agency Mysteries feature four softly-boiled female PIs working out of a stately home in her native Wales. The Cait Morgan Mysteries, which won the 2015 Bony Blithe Award (Agatha's Canadian cousin), feature a Welsh-Canadian criminal psychologist who sleuths her way around the world solving traditional puzzle mysteries. *Murder Keeps No Calendar* is her most recent anthology of short, and long, stories. Website: www.cathyace.com

Cathy Ace's WISE Enquiry agents

Carol Hill – a good friend's the basis for the character, and her real name is Carol [geographic feature]; *Christine Wilson-Smythe* – this needed to fit the daughter of an Irish viscount, whose mother had 'married up'; *Mavis MacDonald* – name of the real Scot who's the physical inspiration for the character; *Annie Parker* – a good friend named Annie is the basis for part of the character, and the character's truly nosy.



Rebecca Alexander is a crime, fantasy and historical writer published by Del Rey UK (The Secrets of Life and Death trilogy) and Titan Books. A psychologist, she's always been interested in the minds of the criminals. In *A Baby's Bones* (Titan Books 2018), pregnant archaeologist Sage Westfield investigates the bones of a baby, thrown down a well in

Elizabethan England. But the horrors of the past can infect the present. Website: www.rebecca-alexander.co.uk



Ian Andrew, owner of the Book Reality Experience, an independent, hybrid publishing company, is also the author of the Wright & Tran series of detective novels. The first, *Face Value*, was awarded the 2017 *Publishers Weekly* BookLife Prize. Originally from Northern Ireland, Ian joined the Royal Air Force at eighteen as an aircraft technician

and subsequently served as an Intelligence Officer. He now lives in the rural south-west of Western Australia. Website: www.ianandrewauthor.com



Ross Armstrong's first novel *The Watcher* was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and was longlisted for the John Creasey Dagger. His second, *Head Case*, published in early 2018, follows community support officer, savant and troublemaker: Tom Mondrian. He graduated from RADA and has been an actor for ten

years, playing suspects, heroes and victims in TV shows like *Ripper Street*, *Foyle's War* and *Jonathan Creek*, and claims to have learnt something from that. But I'm not so sure. Twitter: @rarmstrongbooks

Ross Armstrong's Tom Mondrian

I pitched a novel as Seven meets The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat. Then I had to work out how to write it. I started by researching brain injuries and savantism. One chap claimed his injury made him a prolific artist. He was called Tom McHugh, which was the exact same name of the bloke I'd just chosen as my best man. That was the Tom sorted. Mondrian? That was just obvious.

John Banville (aka Benjamin Black) see his appreciation on page 14.



Quentin Bates escaped English suburbia as a teenager at the end of the seventies. A gap year in Iceland turned into a gap decade before returning to England with a family, a language and a profession acquired in the far north. The joys of writing and translating crime novels follow almost twenty years as a journalist on an obscure nautical trade magazine. Website: www.graskeggur.com



Peter Beck is the Swiss author of the Tom Winter thriller series. *Damnation* (2018, Oneworld) is his debut in English. Peter did his military service as a cyclist, has a doctorate in Psychology and a black belt in judo. After an MBA in Manchester, he became an

executive board member of a large company. Today he is his own boss and divides his time between writing and supporting businesses in shaping their corporate culture. Website: www.peterbeck.net/english

Peter Beck's Tom Winter

The series' taciturn hero Tom Winter is head of security at a Swiss private bank with a global clientele. In this unique role, he tracks down criminals across the world. So, when I started writing the series, I was looking for a quintessentially Swiss name which is equally cosmopolitan. And of course, Winter is also cool. But when Winter goes undercover, he calls himself Summer.



Oliver Bottini was born in 1965. Four of his novels, including *Zen And The Art Of Murder* and *A Summer Of Murder* in the Black Forest Investigations have been awarded the Deutscher Krimipreis, Germany's most prestigious award for crime writing. In addition his novels have been awarded the Stuttgarter Krimipreis and the Berliner Krimipreis. He lives in Berlin. Website: www.bottini.de



Diana Bretherick is no stranger to crime. She worked as a criminal barrister for ten years, counselled offenders at Brixton prison, has lectured in criminology and criminal justice and holds doctorates in both criminology and creative writing. Now she writes full time about crime in both fact and fiction. Her first crime novel, *The City of Devils*, was published in 2013 by Orion Books. Her second, *The Devil's Daughters*, is out now. Website: www.dianabretherick.co.uk

City of Devils, was published in 2013 by Orion Books. Her second, *The Devil's Daughters*, is out now. Website: www.dianabretherick.co.uk

Diana Bretherick's James Murray

Having decided that my protagonist was to be a Scot, I considered various names. One evening I was doing some 'important research' involving a glass or two of wine and watching an early episode of Taggart. His boss was called Murray (nicknamed 'the Mint') and James Murray, my hero-detective was born.



Simon Brett has published over a hundred books, including the Charles Paris, Mrs Pargeter, Fethering and Blotto & Twinks series. His standalone thriller, *A Shock to the System*, was made into a feature film starring Michael Caine, and Bill Nighy stars as Charles Paris on Radio 4. Simon's work for radio and television

includes *After Henry* and *No Commitments*. He is a recipient of the CWA Diamond Dagger, and an OBE 'for services to literature'. Website: www.simonbrett.com

Simon Brett's Charles Paris

Charles Paris' name came to me fully formed. I never thought of him as being called anything else. One of the subconscious reasons may have been that I was then working as a BBC Radio Light Entertainment Producer, and most audience shows were recorded at the Paris Studio in Lower Regent Street. Charles' wife was also called Frances right from the start, and it never occurred to me that 'Frances Paris' was a slightly silly name.



Steph Broadribb has an MA in Creative Writing and trained as a Bounty Hunter in California. Her debut thriller *Deep Down Dead* (Orenda) was shortlisted for CrimeFest's eDunnit eBook of the Year, and Dead Good Reader Awards for Fearless Female Character and Most Exceptional Debut. The second

book *Deep Blue Trouble* is published January 2018. As Stephanie Marland she writes the Starke/Bell psychological police procedural series (Trapeze). The first, *My Little Eye*, is published April 2018. Website: www.crimethrillergirl.com



Alison Bruce is the author of eight crime novels and two non-fiction titles. She has completed seven books in the critically acclaimed Gary Goodhew series set in Cambridge. Her most recent release is the psychological thriller *I Did It for Us*. Alison

is a proud supporter of local libraries and is the patron of Lakenheath Library in Suffolk. She is currently studying Crime and Investigation at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. Website: www.alisonbruce.com

Alison Bruce's Gary Goodhew

After hearing me say that I was writing a book, a friend of mine said 'can I be a character then?' The next chapter needed a policeman so I thought, 'that'll do'. His fictitious alter-ego was only supposed to be on one page but he turned out to be a fantastic character. My friend's name is Gary Goodhew and so far his namesake has starred in seven books and three short stories.



Simone Buchholz was born in Hanau in 1972. She studied Philosophy and Literature, worked as a waitress and a columnist, and trained to be a journalist at the prestigious Henri-Nannen-School in Hamburg. In 2016, Simone Buchholz was awarded the Crime Cologne Award as well as the German Crime Fiction Prize for *Blue Night*, which was number one on the *KrimiZEIT* Best of Crime

List for months. She lives in Hamburg, with her husband and son. Website: www.simonebuchholz.com

Simone Buchholz's Chastity Riley

I name my characters after football players – the good ones after those playing for FC St. Pauli, the bad ones usually play or used to play for Hamburger SV. When I needed a surname for my main character who is half German, half American with Scottish roots, I went to Glasgow and attended a Celtic match. The striker I immediately fell in love with was Nicky Riley and I thought: Riley. Perfect.



Jeremy Cameron worked as a probation officer for twenty-two years. He has written five crime novels which are set in Walthamstow, Jamaica, Pakistan, Lithuania and prisons. *It Was An Accident* was filmed. *Never Again* is about his walk from the Hook of Holland to Istanbul. *Quite Quintessential*, published this October, is about his walks

around places in England starting with the letter 'Q'. Jeremy thinks that crime novels should be nasty, brutish, short and funny. Website: www.jeremycameron.co.uk

Jeremy Cameron's Nicky Burkett

I prefer not to reveal how I came upon the name of my central character lest I should endanger myself and/or others.



Louise Candlish is the bestselling author of *Our House* and eleven previous novels, including *The Swimming Pool* and *The Sudden Departure of the Frasers*, which has been optioned by Hartswood Films. She studied English at University College London and was an advertising copywriter and art book editor

before writing fiction. She lives in South London with her husband and daughter. Website: www.louiseandlish.com



James Carol is the creator of eccentric genius Jefferson Winter, an ex-FBI profiler who travels the world hunting serial criminals. *Broken Dolls*, the first in the series, was a number 1 Amazon bestseller. *The Killing Game*, his first standalone, was shortlisted for a CWA Steel Dagger. *Kiss Me Kill Me* is his second standalone. When not writing, James

spends his time writing and recording music. He lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and two children. Website: www.james-carol.com

James Carol's Jefferson Winter

Jefferson Winter came about after a game of email tag with my agent where we were battling possible names around. We needed something memorable but quirky. I came up with Jefferson as a possible surname, my agent came up with Winter. I don't remember who had the idea to put the two together, but as soon as we did we knew that was the one.



Sam Carrington is the author of the psychological/crime novels *Saving Sophie* and *Bad Sister*. She worked in the NHS for fifteen years and, following the completion of a psychology degree, joined the prison

service as an Offending Behaviour Programme Facilitator. Her experiences within this field inspired her writing. Her third novel, *One Little Lie*, will be published in July 2018. Find her on Twitter: @sam_carrington1. Website: www.samcarrington.blogspot.co.uk

Sam Carrington's Connie Summers

Fed up with trawling through 'most popular baby names' websites, I decided to visit my local churchyard. An ornate gravestone caught my attention – the name 'Constance' immediately struck a chord. I thought it was a good, strong name. I used the shortened version, Connie, though, as it sounded more modern. I gave her the surname Summers because to me it suggested warmth, fun and freedom and gave balance to my character.



M.J. (Miranda) Carter, journalist and historian, turned to thriller-writing because it was so much fun making stuff up. She's written three novels set in the 1840s; the first, *The Strangler Vine*, and the third *The Devil's Feast*, were shortlisted for CWA daggers. *Anthony Blunt: His Lives*, her biography of the Cambridge spy, was shortlisted for the Non-

Fiction Dagger, and chosen by the *New York Times* as one of the best books of 2002. Website: www.mj-carter.com



C.J. Carver is a half-English, half-Kiwi author living just outside Bath. C.J. lived in Australia for ten years before taking up long-distance rallies, driving London to Saigon, London to Cape Town and covering 14,000 miles on the Inca Trail. C.J.'s books have been published in the UK, USA and translated into several languages. Books: *Spare Me The Truth*, *Tell Me A Lie*, *Know Me Now*. Website: www.cjcarver.com



Jane Casey writes the Maeve Kerrigan series of police procedural novels. Her most recent book is *Let the Dead Speak*. She has won several prizes, including Irish Crime Novel of the Year for *After the Fire* and the Mary Higgins Clark Award for *The Stranger You Know*. In addition, Jane has also written a crime trilogy for teenagers and a bestselling standalone, *The*

Missing. She is currently working on her twelfth book.

Jane Casey's Maeve Kerrigan

I wanted to write about a detective with an Irish background but born in the UK. I thought her parents would have picked an Irish name to reflect her heritage. I chose Maeve because it's the name of a famous warrior queen, which seemed appropriate, and much easier to spell/pronounce than a lot of Irish girls' names. It still gets mangled occasionally or spelled Meave. I'm glad I didn't choose the old Irish spelling – Medhbh!



Kimberley Chambers lives in Essex and has been, at various times, a disc jockey, cab driver and a street trader. She is now a No.1 *Sunday Times* bestselling author of thirteen novels, the most recent of which is *Life of Crime*. Join Kimberley's legion of legendary fans online at www.kimberleychambers.com.

Kimberley Chambers' Queenie Butler

When I was in my teens, my pals and I decided to have a dabble on the Ouija board. One name kept cropping up – Queenie. The next day, I bumped into a neighbour and told him about the Ouija. He said: 'There's only one person who has a presence round Dagenham. Her name is Queenie.' Since then I've always thought it was a strong East End name, which is why I decided to use it.

Lee Child — see his appreciation on page 6.

Website: www.leechild.com

Lee Child's Jack Reacher

I had started writing the first Reacher book when my wife asked to me come to the supermarket because she had a lot to haul home. There were little old ladies coming up to me, saying, 'Oh, you're a nice, tall gentleman. Would you reach me that box?' And my wife said, 'If the writing gig doesn't work out, you could be a reacher in a supermarket.' And I thought, 'That's a really good name.'



Rosie Claverton is a novelist, screenwriter, and junior psychiatrist. She grew up in Devon, daughter to a Sri Lankan father and a Norfolk mother, surrounded by folk mythology and surly sheep. She moved to Cardiff to study Medicine and adopted Wales as her home.

Her Cardiff-based crime series *The Amy Lane Mysteries* debuted in 2014, with the latest novel *Terror 404* released in June 2017. Rosie lives with her journalist husband and nearly new daughter. Website: www.rosieclaverton.com



Anne Coates has worked as a staff and freelance journalist on magazines and newspapers as well as editing and abridging fiction and non-fiction. Her short stories have appeared in national magazines and she is the author of seven non-fiction books. Published

by Urbane Publications this May is *Songs of Innocence*, the third in the Hannah Weybridge thriller series set in the 1990s. Anne is currently writing book four in the series.

Website: www.annecoatesauthor.com

Anne Coates' Hannah Weybridge

When I worked on fiction in magazines, we were always careful about naming characters, often using place names to avoid upsetting anyone. For my protagonist, this holds true. Hannah was a little joke as it is a version of my name and the first book begins with one of my experiences but using Weybridge has made her unique – google the name and my character appears at the top of the list!

Martina Cole – see her appreciation on page 7.

Website: www.martinacole.co.uk



Tana Collins became an Amazon Number One bestselling author with her debut novel set in Fife, *Robbing the Dead*, which features Inspector Jim Carruthers. Her follow up in the series, *Care to Die*, was described by author Peter Robinson of DCI Banks fame as 'A finely plotted mystery' with Inspector Carruthers being 'a cop to watch'. Her novels are 'fast-paced, hard-hitting crime thrillers, with a highly emotional side to the plots.'

Website: www.tanacollins.com

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Jane Corry is a *Sunday Times* bestseller and author of *My Husband's Wife*, *Blood Sisters* and *The Dead Ex*. She is published by Penguin Viking. Jane started her career as a journalist and has written for several national magazines and newspapers including the *Daily Telegraph*. She was inspired to write psychological suspense after working in a male high-security

prison for three years. Jane is a judge for the Koestler Awards. Website: www.janecorryauthor.com

Jane Corry's Vicki and Scarlet

The Dead Ex has two heroines – Vicki and Scarlet. With the dual viewpoint, I wanted to make them as different as possible. I've always liked the name Scarlet (red hair runs in the family via my ex). It seemed perfect for my young character because it's knowing and innocent – rather like a scarlet woman or Harry Belafonte's scarlet ribbons. I chose Vicki because an 'ee' ending sounds warm. The spelling makes her stand out.



T.A. Cotterell is the author of the psychological thriller *What Alice Knew*, published in paperback by Transworld in 2017. A limited edition hardback was published in association with the bookseller Goldsboro Books, for whom it was 'Book of the Month.' It achieved the unusual double of receiving a highly positive review in the *TLS* while on sale

in Asda. He is married with three children, lives in Bristol and is working on his second novel.

T.A. Cotterell's Alice Sheahan

As a child I was obsessed by cricket. The first Test cricketer I ever met, though he had long retired, was an Australian, Paul Sheahan, who was briefly a schoolmaster in England. He was generous with his time, a charming man. Casting around for a surname for my narrator, Alice, I remembered his name, which hinted – perfectly for my apparently gilded protagonists – at the idea of sheen, the shiny surface beneath which the troubles lie.



M.W. Craven was born in Carlisle but grew up in Newcastle. He joined the army at sixteen, leaving ten years later to complete a social work degree. Seventeen years after taking up a probation officer role in Cumbria, at the rank of assistant chief officer, he became a full-time author. *The Puppet Show*, the first in a two-

book deal he signed with the Little, Brown imprint Constable in 2017, will be released this June.

M.W. Craven's Washington Poe

In 2016 my agent asked me to write a new series and I was struggling for a protagonist name, so much so that halfway through he was still called 'placeholder'. One evening I laughed out loud reading an online article on the 2016 US election. 'What's so funny?' my wife asked. 'Something in The Washington Post,' I replied. 'What's the Washington Poe?' I knew there and then that I'd found my name.



Mason Cross was born in Glasgow in 1979. He studied English at the University of Stirling and his first novel, *The Killing Season*, was published in 2014 by Orion. It was followed by the sequels *The Samaritan*, *The Time to Kill*, *Don't Look For Me* and *Presumed Dead*. He

lives near Glasgow with his wife and three children. Website: www.masoncross.net

Mason Cross' Carter Blake

I had the line: 'The first thing you should know about me is that my name is not Carter Blake' ...in my head as a good opening for a story long before I came up with anything else about what became my first novel. It intrigued me. I wanted to know what this guy's story was, so I wrote the book. I still don't know what his real name is.



Charles Cumming was born in Scotland in 1971. In 1995, he was approached for recruitment by the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). A year later he moved to Montreal where he began working on a novel based on his experiences, and *A Spy by Nature* was published in 2001. In 2012, Charles won the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for Best

Thriller and the Bloody Scotland Crime Book of the Year for *A Foreign Country*. His new book, *The Man Between*, publishes in June. Website: www.charlescumming.co.uk



Chris Curran was born in London but now lives in St Leonards-on-Sea. She has written three psychological thrillers with a fourth on its way. Her novels, *Mindsight*, *Her Turn To Cry* and *Her Deadly Secret*, are published by Harper Collins Killer Reads. They have all been Amazon bestsellers. She also writes short stories and was shortlisted for the 2017 CWA Margery Allingham award. Follow her on

twitter: @Christi_Curran. www.chriscurranauthor.com

Chris Curran's Orchid

My second novel, Her Turn To Cry, is set in the Swinging Sixties and my heroine is a top model. Her name is Joyce but, like The Shrimp (Jean Shrimpton) and Twiggy, she is better known by her nickname, Orchid. It sounds glamorous but in the book it actually derives from Our Kid, which is what Joyce was called when she performed with her dad in the music halls dressed as a boy.



Alex Dahl is half American, half Norwegian, and was born in Oslo. She graduated with a BA in Russian and German Linguistics with International studies and went on to complete an MA in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, followed by an MSc in

Business Management at Bath University. Alex has previously published short stories in the UK and the US. She is a serious Francophile and lives in London.



Kjell Ola Dahl, born 1958, is the author of the Oslo Detectives Series. This year's novel, *The Ice Swimmer*, is number six in the series published in the UK. Dahl studied psychology, law and economics. He lives with his family on a farm by the lake Mjosa in Norway. Dahl divides his working day between writing and farming. He gets inspired by reading, hiking and cross country skiing. Website: www.kjelloladahl.no

Kjell Ola Dahl's Inspector Gunnarstranda *As boys we used to go fishing in a forbidden place owned by a grumpy man feared by all. To enter Gunnar's land and catch fish was an impressive stunt. When writing my first book I wanted my protagonist to have a name that was unique and at the same time reflected special emotions in myself. I named him after that little piece of land owned by that grumpy old man: Gunnarstranda.*



Christi Daugherty began covering murders as a newspaper reporter at the age of twenty-two. She worked as a journalist for years in cities including Savannah, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. Her work eventually took her to England, where she wrote the international bestselling Night School series of thrillers for young adults under the name C.J. Daugherty. *The Echo Killing* is her first crime novel. Website: www.christidaugherty.com

Christi Daugherty's Harper McClain *The Echo Killing is set in the Deep South, so I wanted my crime reporter to have a distinctive, southern name. To Kill a Mockingbird is one of my favourite books – itself a crime story set in the South, written by a writer from Alabama. Scout didn't work for me. But Harper. That name felt right.*



Stephen Davis began his professional writing career, aged twenty-seven, with his own column in the *South Wales Echo*. He's an award-winning writer, a broadcaster, the author of two business books and is in great demand as a speaker at business conferences. His novels, *The Tsar's Banker* and *I Spy The Wolf* follow the fortunes of the Tagleva banking family through two world wars and beyond. Stephen enjoys golf, cooking and travel. Website: www.thetsarsbanker.com

Stephen Davis' Taglevas *Most of my life decisions are made, sat on a bench, in a local park. Three years ago I was struggling to find Russian names that avoided a simple Smirnov or complicated Siroezhki and each character needing a bewildering multiplicity of names such as Yuri, Yura, Yuri Andreyevich and Zhivago. Then I heard a mother say to her young children, 'You play tag and leave me to talk to Aunty.' and 'Tagleva' was born.*



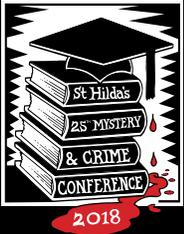
Will Dean grew up in the East Midlands, living in nine different villages before the age of eighteen. After studying Law at LSE, and working many varied jobs in London, he settled in rural Sweden with his wife. He built a wooden house in a boggy forest clearing and it's from this base that he compulsively reads and writes.

Will Dean's Tuva Moodyson *Tuva Moodyson's name came to me about a week before I started writing Dark Pines. I tried out hundreds of name combinations. Tuva is an unusual Swedish name. So is Moodyson. Her name fits. When I write Tuva introducing herself to someone it sounds right. As soon as I spoke it out loud it felt natural. She's Tuva Moodyson.*

Jeffery Deaver – see appreciation on page 8. Website: www.jefferydeaver.com

Jeffery Deaver's Lincoln Rhyme *Resonating from a deep well of psychological turmoil... That's where our protagonists' names come from, right? Well, to be honest...I had wonderful dog named Gunner, who suffered a congenital condition. The veterinarian who saved his life was named Rhymes. So I decided to drop the final 's' and give that name to my hero in The Bone Collector. As for 'Lincoln', I grew up in Illinois, whose state motto was 'The Land of Lincoln'. Voila. Lincoln Rhyme.*

SHARKS CIRCLING: POLITICS AND CRIME



2018

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- Lindsey Davis
- Mick Herron
- Judith Flanders
- Brian McGilloway
- Adrian McKinty
- SG MacLean
- SJ Parris
- Manda Scott
- Louise Welsh
- Andrew Taylor (Chair)
- Conference Guest of Honour is Sara Paretsky



Candy Denman has written extensively for television, including programmes such as *The Bill*, *Heartbeat* and *Doctors*. Having enjoyed writing both crime and medical stories, she decided to combine the two in her series featuring Dr Jocasta Hughes, a police doctor in Hastings. The medical stories might come from Candy's previous work as a nurse, but the serial killer elements come strictly from her imagination. *Dead Pretty* (published 2017), *Body Heat* (published May 2018). Website: www.candydenman.co.uk

Candy Denman's Jocasta Hughes

As a new student nurse I introduced myself as Candida. It only took one witty medical student to ask if my sisters were called Chlamydia and Trichomonas to make me realise that I shared a name with a social disease. I wanted Jocasta to suffer similarly and calling her after the mother of Oedipus could also be the reason for her never getting married, just in case she had a son.



Ruth Downie is the author of a series featuring Roman Army medic Gaius Petrius Ruso – a man whose desire for a quiet life is thwarted both by unwanted murder investigations and by his British partner, Tilla. *Medicus*, the first book in the series, was a *New York Times* bestseller and the eighth, *Memento Mori*, was published in March. When she isn't

writing, Ruth's happiest moments are spent grovelling in mud with an archaeological trowel. Website: www.ruthdownie.com

Ruth Downie's Tilla

Tilla isn't really Tilla's name at all: it's just something she adopted when she was told by her co-star that she would be 'utilis' – 'useful'. He doesn't use her real name because, like me, he can't pronounce it: it's an Irish name I borrowed to illustrate the Romans' inability to get to grips with the Britons. This was all fine till I got an email from the actor who was reading the audiobook: 'So, how do you say Darlughdacha?'



Jeff Dowson began his career in the theatre as a playwright and director. He moved into television as a writer/producer/director. Substantial screen credits include arts and entertainment series, documentaries, drama series and TV films. Turning crime novelist in 2014, he introduced Bristol private eye Jack

Shepherd in *Closing the Distance*. *Changing the Odds* followed. *Cloning the Hate* is the latest in the series. He is a member of BAFTA and the Crime Writers Association. Website: www.jeffdowson.co.uk



Martin Edwards' new novel, *Gallows Court*, is published in September. His genre study *The Golden Age of Murder* won the Edgar, Agatha, CrimeFest's H.R.F. Keating and Macavity awards. Editor of thirty-six anthologies, he has also won the CWA Short Story Dagger and the CWA Margery Allingham Prize. He

is President of the Detection Club and Chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and has received the Poirot award for his contribution to the crime genre. Website: www.martinedwardsbooks.com



Ruth Dudley Edwards is an historian and journalist. The targets of her satirical crime novels include academia, the civil service, the House of Lords, the Church of England, literary prizes and political correctness. She won CrimeFest's Goldsboro Last Laugh Award for *Murdering Americans* (2008) and *Killing the Emperors* (2013), as well as the CWA Non-Fiction Gold Dagger for *Aftermath: The Omagh Bombings And The Families' Pursuit Of Justice* (2010). Website: www.ruthdudleyedwards.com

Ruth Dudley Edwards' Robert Amiss

When writing my first novel, being a cricket fan, I took Wodehouse's advice and sought surnames in Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac. Dennis Amiss, whom I admired, leaped into view quickly and I nicked his name for my central character. His was pronounced like Amis and I didn't realise until after the book was published that most people pronounce it as in 'What's amiss?' even though that would in real life lead to endless unfunny puns. Sigh!



Emily Elgar completed the Faber Academy novel writing course in 2013. She was working in London for a national charity supporting vulnerable women when she signed with PFD. Her debut *If You Knew Her* was published in 2017 by Little, Brown in the UK, HarperCollins in the US and eight other territories, and was an international bestseller. She is currently working on her second novel, which will be published by Little, Brown in January 2019. Website: www.emilyelgar.com

Emily Elgar's Frank Ashcroft

Frank has locked-in syndrome and everyone thinks he's in a vegetative state, but Frank hears and sees everything that happens around him, so he is the perfect 'fly on the wall'. A reader remarked on how clever it was I called him Frank being that he is a seeker of the truth. I didn't confess that I'd never made the connection – I called him Frank because that was his name, not for any loftier reason!



Kate Ellis was born and brought up in Liverpool and studied drama in Manchester. Her books reflect her keen interest in history and she has recently published *A High Mortality of Doves*, the first novel in a trilogy set in the aftermath of the Great War. However, she is best known for her series combining past and present crimes and featuring black archaeology graduate DI Wesley Peterson, the latest of which is *The Mechanical Devil*. Website: www.kateellis.co.uk



Mark Ellis is a thriller writer from Swansea, a former barrister and entrepreneur, and the creator of wartime Scotland Yard detective Frank Merlin. He has always been fascinated by WW2 and, in particular, the explosion of crime on the Home Front between 1939 and 1945. There are three books in the DCI Merlin series: *Princes Gate*, *Stalin's Gold* and *Merlin At War*. A fourth

is due in 2019. Website: www.markellisauthor.com

Mark Ellis' Frank Merlin

Writing my first book, the hero was established in my mind as a Londoner but I wanted to make him a little different. On a Spanish holiday I decided to make him the son of a Spanish immigrant father. A local sheep grazing in a nearby field somehow suggested the surname Merino. Settled in England the father Javier Merino changed his name to Harry Merlin and thus his son Francisco...



Thomas Enger is a former journalist. He made his crime-writing debut in 2010 with *Burned*, the first in the Henning Juul series, which became an international sensation before publication. The series, which has been published in twenty-eight countries to date, delves into the depths of Oslo's underbelly and sees journalist Juul searching for his son's

murderer. Thomas also composes music, and is currently writing a thriller with Jørn Lier Horst (*Point Zero*). He lives in Oslo. Website: www.thomasenger.com

Thomas Enger's Henning Juul

I don't remember exactly how it came to be, but what I do recall is that I didn't want a name with the typical Scandi alliteration thing. Harry Hole. Varg Veum. William Wisting. There's nothing wrong with them, but I wanted something different. Henning is my father's name, and my daughter's name is Henny. And I have a neighbour whose surname is Juul. So maybe that's how. Take my word for it. I really don't know.



Caroline England is a former divorce and professional indemnity lawyer. In addition to the publication of her short story collection, *Watching Horsepats Feed the Roses* by ACHUKAbooks, Caroline has had short stories and poems published in a variety of literary publications and anthologies. Her debut novel, *Beneath the Skin*, was published by Avon HarperCollins on 5 October 2017. Her second novel, *My Husband's Lies*, will follow on 17 May 2018. Website: www.carolineenglandauthor.co.uk

Caroline England's Antonia

'So what's your new name going to be?' Sophie asked her. She glanced around the room, her eyes finally resting on a thick discarded book. Antoinette was too fussy, but an educated white author and a lady of the realm... What could be more perfect? 'Antonia, Antonia. My name is Antonia,' she said.



J.D. Fennell was born in Belfast at the start of the Troubles, and began writing stories at a young age to help understand the madness unfolding around him. A lover of reading, he devoured a diverse range of books by authors such as Fleming, Tolkien, Shakespeare and the Brontës. *Sleeper*, his debut novel, is a spy thriller set in London 1941. It was published by

The Dome Press in April 2017. Website: www.sleeperbook.com

J.D. Fennell's Will Starling

At its core Sleeper is a revenge tale. Protagonist Will Starling, has an edge and does not follow rules. I wanted him to have a standout surname, and as a fan of Thomas Harris's books, I love FBI agent Clarice Starling. Like Clarice, he is direct, stout-hearted and resilient. Choosing that name was very much a nod to Harris and Clarice.



Paul Finch is an ex-cop turned crime writer, and is the author of the DS Mark Heckenburg and DC Lucy Clayburn novels. Paul cut his literary teeth penning episodes of TV drama *The Bill*, but he is best known for the Heckenburg actioners and the Clayburn procedurals, the first of the latter making it into the *Sunday Times* Top 10. Paul is a native

of Wigan, Lancashire, where he lives with his wife, Cathy. Website: www.paulfinch-writer.blogspot.co.uk

Paul Finch's Mark Heckenburg

My main character is DS Mark Heckenburg, though he's more commonly known by the nickname, 'Heck'. It came from a rugby league match I attended, where an Australian player called John Heckenburg was putting in a storming performance. All through the match, you could hear 'great work, Heck', 'keep going, Heck', etc. It seemed so cool that knew I had to use it. Later on, this story made it into the RL press in Australia.



Barry Forshaw is one of the UK's leading experts on crime fiction and film. His books include *Historical Noir*, *Nordic Noir*, *Sex and Film*, *Italian Cinema*, *American Noir* and *British Crime Film*. Other work: *Death in a Cold Climate*, *British Gothic Cinema*, *Detective*, *Euro Noir*, *BFI War of the Worlds* and the Keating Award-winners *British Crime Writing*

Encyclopedia and *Brit Noir*. He writes for various newspapers, broadcasts, chairs events, and edits the website *Crime Time*.



Felix Francis took over writing the 'Dick Francis' novels from his father. He's recently finished *Crisis*, which will be published in September 2018. It will be his thirteenth 'Dick Francis' novel. Felix lives in Oxfordshire with his wife, Debbie, and two red setters. A keen cricket supporter, he is a member of MCC

and the Lord's Taverners, as well as of the Crime Writers Association, the International Thriller Writers, the Detection Club and The Garrick. Website: www.felixfrancis.com



Valentina 'V.M.' Giambanco worked in film editing for years and is a 35mm cutting room vet and a film nerd. Her Homicide Detective Alice Madison series, published by Quercus, is set in Seattle and in the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. *Sweet After Death*, the fourth in the series, is already out in the UK and will be published in the US in August

2018. She lives in London because she loves the weather. Website: www.valentinagiambanco.com

Valentina Giambanco's Alice Madison

While I was doing research, I read about the funny mnemonic Seattle police officers use to remember the sequence of streets that cross the downtown area: Jesus Christ Made Seattle Under Protest. It made me laugh. Actually it stands for Jefferson, James, Cherry, Columbia, Marion, Madison, Spring, Seneca, University, Union, Pike and Pine. I like the sound of Madison, I thought. And it's next to the US Court of Appeals. Perfect for my detective.



Dolores Gordon-Smith is the author of the Jack Haldean mystery series set in 1920s England, the latest of which is *The Chessman*, published by Severn House; a WW1 spy/mystery series, *Frankie's Letter* and *The Price of Silence* and a 1920s standalone, *Serpent's Eye*. Married with five daughters and various dogs and cats, Dolores has been a teacher, a

civil servant and a shaker-out of Christmas puddings in a jam factory. Website: www.doloresgordon-smith.co.uk



Kate Griffin won the 2013 Faber and Faber/*Stylist Magazine* competition to find a new voice in crime writing. The first book in her series, *Kitty Peck and the Music Hall Murders*, was shortlisted for the 2014 CWA Endeavour Historical Dagger. Kate combines writing with work for a national heritage charity. Book three, *Kitty Peck and the Daughter of Sorrow*,

was published in 2017. Kate is finishing book four, *Kitty Peck and the Parliament of Shadows*. Website: www.kategriffin.net

Kate Griffin's Lady Ginger

My first job was as an assistant to a West End antique dealer. Early on, he sent me with a large eighteenth-century Chinese ginger jar to an elderly woman collector in Shepherd's Market. Her name, he said, was 'Lady Newhall'. Surrounded by a group of oriental beauties, she was terrifying. Naïvely, I didn't realise at the time she was a notorious 'madam'. Years later I gave my leading Victorian villain the name Lady Ginger.



Elly Griffiths is the author of the Dr Ruth Galloway mysteries and the Stephens and Mephisto books. Her books have been shortlisted for the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year three times and, in 2016, Elly won the CWA Dagger in the Library, awarded for a body of work. *The Dark Angel* (Feb 2018) is the tenth Ruth book and Elly's first standalone

novel, *The Stranger Diaries*, will be published in November 2018. Website: www.ellygriffiths.co.uk

Elly Griffiths' Ruth Galloway

I've often said that Ruth came walking towards me out of the Norfolk mist and she came complete with her name. It was only afterwards that I wondered if she owed something to Ruth Badger, my favourite ever Apprentice candidate. Similarly Sergeant Clough may have been influenced by Sergeant Cuff in my favourite book, The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins.



Johana Gustawsson has been dubbed the 'new Queen of French Noir', and her critically acclaimed and award-winning debut thriller *Block 46* became an instant international bestseller. Born in 1978 in Marseille, Johana worked as a journalist for the French press before marrying a Swede and moving to London. *Keeper*, the next in the Roy & Castells

series, sends the team from London to Sweden, then back to Jack the Ripper's Whitechapel on the hunt for a serial killer. Website: www.johanagustawsson.com

Johana Gustawsson's Alexis Castells

I was five and holidaying in my grandparents' Spanish home. I was then a huge admirer of the Austrian empress Sissi and wanted to visit castles, wherever I was going. When 'Papé', my granddad, finally took me to the only castle nearby, I couldn't hide my disappointment as it was completely in ruins. From that moment, my Papé, very much amused, started calling me 'Johana dels Castells', Johana of the Castles.

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Peter Guttridge has written thirteen crime novels, a number of (occasionally prize-winning) short stories and the odd bit of true crime. His first six novels were comic crime and he has returned to this sub-genre for his short story for CrimeFest's *Ten Year Stretch*. Maybe this year he'll finally

finish the seventh comic crime novel, *Look Back In Agra...*

Website: www.peterguttridge.com

Peter Guttridge's Nick Madrid

My Godson is called Nick. I once worked with a David Brazil. Cool guy, great name. But I didn't want my Nick to annex a country so I settled for a city. I was going for a particular Italian city but there is a scumbag tabloid journalist with that name. (He's got to die, fictionally speaking.) Maxim Jakubowski calls my Nick 'Nick Martini' but no martinis are involved in these novels.



Kat Hall is a Germanist, translator and crime fiction reviewer at Peabody Ink., and runs the 'Mrs. Peabody Investigates' blog, which showcases quality international crime fiction. She is the editor of *Crime Fiction in German: Der Krimi* (UWP 2016), an Honorary Research Associate at Swansea University, and helps to judge the Petrona Award for the

best Scandinavian crime novel in translation. Websites: www.peabodyink.com and www.mrspeabodyinvestigates.wordpress.com



Mari Hannah, scriptwriter and author, is based in Northumberland. Her awards include: the Polari Prize, a Northern Writers' Award and the CWA Dagger in the Library 2017 for her body of work. Her acclaimed Kate Daniels series is in development with Stephen Fry's production company, Sprout Pictures.

Mari is reader-in-residence for the Theakston's

Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, Harrogate. Her latest title *The Lost* was published by Orion on March 22, 2018. Twitter: @mariwriter. Website: www.marihannah.com

Mari Hannah's David Stone and Frankie Oliver

The inspiration for my lead detective is a man I've never met – a homesick expat living in Australia. My books are his Geordie fix. His name is David. I played with surnames that didn't fit the character . . . Stone is no hard man. Oliver (call me Frankie) is a third-generation cop. There's been a Frank Oliver in Northumbria Police since 1966. I merely carried it on. Her surname is my agent's first name.



Elodie Harper is a journalist and prize winning short story writer. Her story 'Wild Swimming' won the 2016 Bazaar of Bad Dreams competition run by the *Guardian* and Hodder & Stoughton and judged by Stephen King. Her debut *The Binding Song* was published by Hodder in June 2017 and shortlisted for the East Anglian Book of

the Year. *The Death Knock* is published this July. Elodie is a reporter for ITV News Anglia.

Elodie Harper's Janet Palmer

In The Binding Song Dr Janet Palmer is a prison psychologist torn between rational and supernatural explanations while investigating the troubling circumstances of several prisoners' suicides. Her first name is a nod to the forensic insight of Janet Malcolm, author of The Journalist and The Murderer, who I hugely admire. Her surname Palmer is the medieval word for pilgrim, and a nod to the fact she sets off on a more 'spiritual' journey than she anticipated!



Tom Harper is the author of fourteen thriller and adventure novels, including the *Sunday Times* Top Ten Bestseller *The Tiger's Prey* co-written with Wilbur Smith. Other novels include *Black River*, *Zodiac Station*, and *The Orpheus Descent*. His novels have been translated into over twenty languages worldwide. He is a former Chair of the Crime

Writers' Association and the Harrogate History Festival, and a director of the Historical Writers' Association. Website: www.tom-harper.co.uk



John Harvey – London-born, Nottinghambred – is the author of the Charlie Resnick and Frank Elder series. He was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger in 2007 and the CWA Short Story Dagger in 2014. The first Elder novel, *Flesh & Blood*, won the CWA Silver Dagger in 2004 and the most recent, *Body & Soul*, was published this April. He has

honorary doctorates from the Universities of Nottingham and Hertfordshire. Website: www.mellotone.co.uk



Alis Hawkins's Teifi Valley Coroner series marks her move away from medieval historical fiction and into Victorian Crime. The series, featuring partially-sighted would-be coroner Harry Probert Lloyd and his chippy assistant John Davies, is set in Cardiganshire where Alis grew up. The first in the series, *None So Blind*, described as 'so much more than a crime

novel... original and disconcerting' takes place during the Rebecca Riots – Wales' best kept historical secret. Website: www.alishawkins.co.uk

Alis Hawkins' Harry Probert-Lloyd

Harry Probert-Lloyd's name offers a potted family history. The Welsh gentry anglicised their names two centuries before Harry's birth and Probert comes from ap (son of) Robert – the name Harry's father was forced to adopt as a condition of his marriage. Adopting 'Lloyd' was Probert-Lloyd senior's own choice on his second marriage. The way in which Harry's name effectively excludes his English heritage reflects his own fierce self-identity as a Cardiganshire man.

Charlie Higson – see appreciation on page 15. Website: www.charliehigson.co.uk



Sarah Hilary's debut, *Someone Else's Skin*, won Theakstons Crime Novel of the Year 2015 and was a World Book Night selection for 2016. *The Observer's* Book of the Month ('superbly disturbing') and a Richard & Judy Book Club bestseller, it has been published worldwide. *No Other Darkness*, the second in the series, was shortlisted for a Barry Award in the US. *Come and Find Me* is the latest in the Marnie Rome series. Website: www.sarahhilary.com

Sarah Hilary's Marnie Rome

Marnie is named after author Winston Graham's heroine, made famous by Alfred Hitchcock's film of the same name.



Antonia Hodgson is the author of the highly acclaimed Tom Hawkins historical crime series, published by Hodder. Her debut, *The Devil in the Marshalsea* won the CWA Historical Dagger and was a Richard & Judy and Waterstones Book Club pick. She has been shortlisted for a number of other awards including the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year.

Antonia Hodgson's Tom Hawkins

Originally, Tom Hawkins was called William Templeton. What was I thinking? William Templeton sounds respectable, sensible. The sort of man who would never get into trouble. (An unfortunate trait in a protagonist.) I already had Tom's character in my head, but once I renamed him, he really came to life. Maybe he'll meet William one day – and drink him under the table.



Anja de Jager is Dutch but lives in London. She draws inspiration from cases that her father, a retired police detective, worked on in the Netherlands. The first book in her Lotte Meerman series, *A Cold Death In Amsterdam*, was picked by *The Times* as one of their Crime Novels of the Year. Anja worked in the City

for twenty years but is now a full-time writer. She's currently working on her fourth novel. Website: www.anjadejager.com



Maxim Jakubowski worked as a publisher for many years alongside his writing in the fields of SF, erotica and crime, and editing over one hundred anthologies. He was for over two decades the crime critic for *Time Out* and then the *Guardian* and now reviews at *Crime Time*. Under a pseudonym he has

written ten volumes in a literary erotica series which reached the Top ten of the *Sunday Times* bestseller list. He returns to thriller writing this month with his novel *The Louisiana Republic*. He is joint vice-chair of the CWA. Website: www.maximjakubowski.co.uk

Peter James – see appreciation on page 9. Website: www.peterjames.com

Peter James' Roy Grace

It came to me very quickly, and I instantly knew it was right. I wanted a name that was unpretentious, warm and easy. I've known several people called Roy, and liked them all – it seems to be a name of someone trustworthy. I loved 'Grace' because of the many different connotations, all of them positive. And in my experience with the police, I believe all good homicide detectives should have a strong element of grace.



Amanda Jennings writes dark

contemporary fiction, published in the UK and in translation. Her third book *In Her Wake* was a WH Smith Fresh Talent pick. *The Cliff House* is out in May. She has a deep love of Cornwall which provides the setting for her most recent books. Amanda is a regular guest on BBC

Berkshire. She lives in Oxfordshire with her husband and three daughters, and is currently writing her fifth book. Website: www.amandajennings.co.uk



B.E. Jones is a former professional

'nose-poker-in-er' i.e. a journalist, who worked in newspapers and for BBC Wales before becoming a press officer and media manager for South Wales Police. Now a freelance writer and novelist, she channels her experiences of 'true crime' into her dark psychological mysteries. *Where She*

Went, published by Little Brown, is her fifth novel set in South Wales. Her sixth, *Halfway*, is due for release in 2018. Twitter: @bevjonesswriting. Website: www.bevjonesswriting.co.uk



Alison Joseph is a crime writer and

award-winning radio dramatist. After a career in documentaries, she began writing full-time with the first of the Sister Agnes series of crime novels. She is also the author of a series featuring (a fictional) Agatha Christie as a detective. Her new detective, Malone,

will be launched in 2018. Alison is a founder member of Killer Women, and was Chair of the British Crime Writers Association from 2013-2015. Website: www.alisonjoseph.com



Emma Kavanagh is a former police and military psychologist, specialising in human performance in life threatening situations and the effects of danger on cognitive function. She is the author of *Falling*, *Hidden*, *The Missing Hours* and *The Killer On The Wall*, and is currently working on her latest, *To Catch*

A Killer – the first of a trilogy. Emma currently lives in South Wales with her husband and two little boys. Website: www.emmakavanagh.com



Lesley Kelly has worked in the public and voluntary sectors for the past twenty years, dabbling in poetry and stand-up comedy along the way. She won the Scotsman's Short Story award in 2008. Her first novel, *A Fine House in Trinity*, was longlisted for the McIlvanney Prize. Her latest novel, *Songs by Dead Girls*, is the second book in a series of thrillers. Website: www.lesleykelly.co.uk

Lesley Kelly's Bernard McDonald

In my Health of Strangers crime series, the Health Enforcement Team fight crime in an Edinburgh beset by a deadly flu pandemic. I'm well aware that there is a long and honourable tradition of killer virus thrillers, so as a genre arriviste I made a nod to the granddaddy of the form, La Peste, by naming my main character after Camus' hero, Bernard (pronounced 'Bernaaaar' en français).



Jake Kerridge is a journalist and critic who has been the crime fiction reviewer of the *Daily Telegraph* since 2005. He has interviewed many of the world's leading crime and thriller writers, from P.D. James to Elmore Leonard, and enjoys meeting the crime stars of the future in the annual Debut Authors panels at CrimeFest.



Vaseem Khan writes the Mumbai-set Baby Ganesh Detective Agency series featuring Indian detective Inspector Ashwin Chopra and his baby elephant sidekick. The first book *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* was a *Times* bestseller and a Waterstones paperback of the year. Born in London, Vaseem spent a decade working in India. He now works at University College London's Department of Security and Crime Science. His latest is *Murder at the Grand Raj Palace*. Website: www.vaseemkhan.com

Vaseem Khan's Inspector Ashwin Chopra *Chopra is named after my brother-in-law. The Indian police service is renowned for corruption, bullying, and incompetence. When I came up with the character of Chopra, a man who stands for uncompromising integrity in this sea of venality, I needed an upright sort of name... I couldn't think of anyone more morally superior than my bro-in-law! The man is the very embodiment of honesty, often ticking me off for 'straying into the grey'. Nuff said.*



Olivia Kiernan is an Irish writer living in the UK and author of crime thriller *Too Close to Breathe*. She was born and raised in County Meath, near the famed heritage town of Kells, and holds an MA in Creative Writing awarded by the University of Sussex. *Too Close To Breathe* is her debut novel. Website: www.oliviakiernan.com

[oliviakiernan.com](http://www.oliviakiernan.com)

Olivia Kiernan's Frankie Sheehan

I was a good chapter into Too Close To Breathe before I made myself sit back and think about Frankie's name. For days it occupied my mind but it was as I pushed my daughter by a construction site that her name presented itself to me, on the side of a skip! Incidentally, Sheehan comes from the Gaelic for peace or Siocháin as in the Garda Síochána, something I discovered well after I'd finished writing.



Dirk Kurbjuweit was born in the German city of Wiesbaden in 1962. After school he tried to start a career as a rally driver, but hit almost the first tree beside the road. So he became a journalist, specialising in politics. By day he is deputy editor-in-chief with the news magazine *Der Spiegel*. At night he is a writer of novels. The seventh, *Fear*, has been translated into English.



Janet Laurence's *A Fatal Freedom*, published by Mystery Press, is the second in her Ursula Grandison Edwardian mystery series. Her Darina Lisle culinary mysteries and Canaletto historical crime series are now available from Amazon. She is also the author of *Writing Crime Fiction – Making Crime Pay*, published by Aber. She runs crime writing workshops and is currently Chairman of the CWA International Dagger judging panel.

Janet Laurence's Darina Lisle

Changing a character's name is even more difficult than choosing one. After I'd written my first crime novel, I found that Susan Moody had already published books with a Penny, the name I'd chosen for my cooking expert protagonist. I considered and discarded name after name. Then I saw Darina Allen demonstrating cookery at Ballymaloe in County Cork, and I didn't have to search any further.



John Lawton is more or less itinerant. He spends much of each year in Italy and New York, but finds he misses Arizona. He's written a dozen novels and his latest, *Friends and Traitors*, was published in April. He does not have a website, nor does he tweet, bookface or iphone. He is mostly driven by rage and politics and makes efforts to relax with Schubert and Renée Fleming. He does not always succeed.

John Lawton's Frederick Troy

I pinched the name from Thomas Hardy (Far From etc.) but once I'd added Russian origins I needed to know the name his family had dropped, but gave it sod all thought. Circa 1989 Channel 4 had its Russian Season and I found myself propping up a Fitzrovia bar with a rock journalist we'd flown in from Moscow — Artemy Troitsky. That worked. Troitsky into Troy. Almost plausible. More so than O'Lachtnáin into Lawton.



Douglas Lindsay was born on a bleak, rain-soaked day in the west of Scotland in 1964. He has been writing for twenty years, with his first novel, *The Long Midnight of Barney Thomson*, released in February 1999. Since then he has written seven further Barney Thomson novels, several other crime novels in the non-traditional style, and has occasionally branched out into more surreal dramatic/romantic territory. He currently lives in

Somerset. Website: www.douglaslindsay.com

Douglas Lindsay's DI Westphall

I had Westphall in my head as a name mentioned in Theoden's classic 'Where was Gondor' speech in The Two Towers – there's no connection between the DI and Lord Of The Rings, I just liked the sound of the name – and I went with it. However, at some point, when it was too late, I bothered to check. The line is, of course, 'Where was Gondor when the Westfold fell?'



Niki Mackay studied Performing Arts at the BRIT School, and it turned out she wasn't very good at acting but quite liked writing scripts. She holds a BA (Hons) in English Literature and Drama and won a full scholarship for her MA in Journalism. Her debut novel *I, Witness* – the first in a series featuring PI Madison

Attallee – was published by Orion on April 19th 2018. www.nikimackay.com

Niki Mackay's Madison Attallee

My protagonist is a PI called Madison Attallee. My thirteen-year-old god-daughter is also called Madison and it's her name that I lifted. She is the fiercest girl I know, a quality I LOVE, though I'm very pleased to say that's where the similarities to Book Madison end!



Adrian Magson is the series author of twenty-two crime and spy thrillers. Leading characters feature Harry Tate, Marc Portman, Inspector Lucas Rocco, Gonzales & Vaslik and Gavin & Palmer. His latest book published, *Rocco and the Nightingale* (The Dome Press) came out in October, and his first standalone

title – *Smart Moves* (The Dome Press) – is due out in August. Adrian also writes the monthly 'Beginners' page in *Writing Magazine*. Website: www.adrianmagson.com

Adrian Magson's Riley Gavin

I wish I had a neat story about how I come by names, but I don't. The truth is far more mundane: I mix and match surnames and first names from listings, football, film credits, etc., until I find ones that suit. The nearest I came was with my very first series (female) character, Riley Gavin. Can't recall where Gavin came from, but I liked the Riley car because it was stylish and fast.



Iain Maitland is the author of *Sweet William*, published by Contraband, the crime imprint of Saraband Books. This is the first of four crime thrillers and the next, *Mr Lamb's Secret*, is due out in November 2018. He also writes memoirs – *Dear Michael, Love Dad* for Hodder & Stoughton and *Out Of The Madhouse* (with Michael Maitland) for Jessica

Kingsley Publishers. He is an ambassador for the teen mental health charity, Stem4.

Iain Maitland's Raymond Orrey.

I wanted an old-fashioned first name for my main character, something his domineering mother might have chosen; perhaps because it was her father's name. I wanted an unusual surname that was a little different but that sounded rough and craggy. Most important of all, I wanted a name that no one else seemed to have – checking on 192.com – as I did not want to be sued!



Michael J. Malone has published eight novels and one non-fiction book. *A Suitable Lie* (Sept '16) and *House of Spines* (Sept '17) are the most recent. He has also published over two hundred poems in literary magazines throughout the UK. Recognition for his work includes winning The Pitlochry Prize for *Blood Tears*. He also works as a freelance editor and writing mentor. Website: www.mjm-ink.com

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Priscilla Masters was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, and adopted as a baby. She has written thirteen novels featuring DI Joanna Piercy set in Leek, Staffordshire. *Crooked Street* was published by Severn House in 2016. She has also written six novels featuring Shrewsbury Coroner Martha Gunn, the latest title *Recalled to Death*, a new series featuring a forensic psychiatrist, Dr Claire Roget, set in the Potteries of Staffordshire, and a number of medical standalones. Website: www.priscillamasters.co.uk

Priscilla Masters' Martha Gunn
Martha Gunn was a Brighton bathing attendant who helped the Prince Regent from his bathing machine into the sea. Modelled in Staffordshire as a female Toby jug she is distinguished from Gin Woman by the three plumes of the Prince of Wales on her cap. A fitting name for my Shrewsbury Coroner.



S.S. Mausooof is a writer-filmmaker with a fanbase built through noir films like *Kala Pul* and *Absolution*, and his Indus valley documentary *In Search of Meluhha*. *The Warehouse* is the first in a unique noir series inspired by author's relief work in Pakistan. It's been published by Hachette India, HopeRoad UK and Laube in France as *Nuit Sans Lune au Waziristan*. *The Warehouse* was shortlisted for Best Fiction at the Karachi Literary Festival in 2017. Website: www.ssmausooof.com

S.S. Mausooof's Cash
The theme of The Warehouse is corruption and the extent to which the protagonist Syed Qais endangers himself for the blood money. The name Cash suited this theme and was audibly similar to the given name. Qais is also the name of Majnun, the madman who roamed the desert searching for his beloved in the medieval Arabian tale of star crossed lovers, Layla-Majnun. This served as an apt metaphor for Cash's wanderings in Waziristan.



Luke McCallin's experiences working for the UN inspired a historical mystery series with an unlikely protagonist, Gregor Reinhardt, a German intelligence officer and former Berlin detective. *The Man From Berlin* and *The Pale House* were set in Sarajevo during WWII. *The Ashes of Berlin* follows Reinhardt's return home to Allied occupation. His new novel sees Reinhardt as a young officer during WWI faced with an investigation in the trenches. Facebook: [lukemccallinauthor](https://www.facebook.com/lukemccallinauthor)

Luke McCallin's Gregor Reinhardt
It may sound clichéd, but I was working in Bosnia as a UN peacekeeper, working with divided communities and trying to make sense of what I was seeing and hearing when a stranger walked into a dream one night and said: 'My name is Gregor Reinhardt, and I am on the edge of despair at what my life has become...'



Chris McGeorge has an MA in Creative Writing (Crime/Thriller) from City University London, where he wrote his debut thriller *Guess Who* as his thesis. He is a lover of Golden Age crime, and is known to get incredibly excited about anything high-concept. When not writing, he can be seen treading the boards at Durham Dramatic Society. He lives in Durham with his hamster, Agatha Christie. Twitter: [@crmgeorge](https://twitter.com/crmcgeorge).



William McIntyre, a partner in Scotland's oldest law firm and criminal defence specialist, turns fact into fiction with his string of legal thrillers, the Best Defence series, featuring defence lawyer Robbie Munro and a cast of returning characters. With eight books so far and two more set for publication, the Best Defence series, renowned for its rich vein of dry-humour and multi-layered plots, has been described as an antidote to maverick cops chasing serial killers. Website: www.bestdefence.biz



Kate Medina is the author of four highly acclaimed crime novels. Her stand-alone debut, *White Crocodile*, set in Cambodia, sold globally in 2014. *Fire Damage* ('An excellent start to a new series' – *Sunday Express*) introduced clinical psychologist Dr Jessie Flynn. *Scared to Death* followed and, third in the Flynn series, *Two Little Girls*, is out now. Kate has a BSc in Psychology, was a Royal Engineers Troop Commander and worked in military intelligence. Website: www.katemedina.com

Kate Medina's Tess Hardy
I took my kids to a rehoming centre to choose a puppy. It was a hard choice, as there were so many. One, small, weak puppy repeatedly climbed onto my daughter's knee, even though my daughter favoured a different puppy. We ended up re-homing the small one – Tess – as she has chosen us and it was fate. The central theme of White Crocodile, my debut novel, was 'fate' and so it made total sense to call the protagonist Tess!



Karen Millie-James studied business and languages at University of Westminster and is now recognised internationally as a corporate expert. Karen's first novel, *The Shadows Behind Her Smile*, was published March 2016 and *Where In The Dark*, September 2017. She is currently undertaking talking engagements and recently a nationwide BBC radio tour culminating in an interview with Clare Balding on Radio 2. Karen's third novel, *A Thousand Silent Cries*, is due out late 2018. Website: www.karenmillieames.com

Karen Millie-James' Cydney Granger
I wanted my female protagonist not only to have a strong first name but also something that was androgynous and would open doors for her in her field of work, corporate forensics investigation. For some reason, her name just came to me; not very complicated.



Alison Morton, author of the acclaimed seven-book Roma Nova thriller series, ex-military and ex-translator, lives with her husband in France. There she speculates about twenty-first-century women Praetorians. Her third book, *Successio*, was Editor's Choice in the *Bookseller's* inaugural indie preview and

Aurelia was one of four finalists in the 2016 Historical Novel Society Indie Award. 'Grips like a vice – a writer to watch out for' says Adrian Magson about series starter *Inceptio*. Website: www.alison-morton.com

Alison Morton's Carina Mitela

In 2009, I nearly drove myself crazy searching for a distinctive Latin name that my American lead character, Karen, could take when she moved to Roma Nova, the imaginary Latin-speaking country of my thriller series. 'Carina' fitted the bill perfectly. Then I heard about a new publishing imprint. Too late.



Steve Mosby is the author of ten acclaimed and widely translated psychological thrillers. In 2012, he won the CWA Dagger in the Library for his body of work. His latest book is *You Can Run*. Website: www.theleftroom.co.uk



Abir Mukherjee is *The Times* bestselling author of the Sam Wyndham novels, including the debut, *A Rising Man*, which won the CWA Endeavour Historical Dagger for best historical crime novel of 2017, and is currently shortlisted for Best Novel by the MWA. The follow-up, *A Necessary Evil*, was selected by *The Times* as one of the best historical fiction

novels of 2017. Abir's third novel, *Smoke and Ashes*, is out in June 2018. Website: www.abirmukherjee.com

Abir Mukherjee's 'Surrender-not' Banerjee

Surrender-not is my protagonist, Sam Wyndham's right hand man. His real name's Surendranath, but his British superiors can't pronounce it. I found the name in a history book while at university. There really was a Surendranath Banerjee who was called Surrender-not by the British. They even gave him a knighthood, so he became Sir Surrender-not Banerjee. Years later, when I came to write novels, the name seemed too good not to use!



Elizabeth Mundy's grandmother was a Hungarian immigrant to America who raised five children on a chicken farm in Indiana. An English Literature graduate from Edinburgh University, Elizabeth is a marketing director for an investment firm and lives in London with her messy husband and baby son. *In Strangers' Houses* is her debut novel and the

first in the Lena Szarka mystery series. The second in the series, *A Clean Canvas*, will be published in 2019. Website: www.elizabethmundy.com

Elizabeth Mundy's Lena Szarka

In 1912, the year the Titanic sank, my great grandmother Magdaléna left Hungary and took a boat to America. She was the first of her family to leave Hungary, let alone Europe. She'd been told the streets would be paved with gold, but she ended up raising her six children in a house with a dirt floor in Indiana. My heroine, a Hungarian cleaner turned detective, is named after her – Lena for short.



Peter Murphy, formerly a war crimes lawyer and a judge, has written six legal thrillers set in 1960s and 1970s London, featuring barrister Ben Schroeder: *A Higher Duty*; *A Matter for the Jury*; *And is there Honey still for Tea?*; *The Heirs of Owain Glyndŵr*; *Calling Down the Storm*; and *One Law for the Rest of Us*. He has also written two political

thrillers about the US presidency: *Removal* and *Test of Resolve*. Website: www.petermurphyauthor.co.uk



Vicky Newham is a former teacher and the author of a police procedural series set in East London. She has drawn on her experience of living and working in the area to write her debut novel, *Turn a Blind Eye* (April 2018), which introduces DI Maya Rahman. Vicky grew up in a sleepy Sussex village. She escaped to London where she studied psychology. This experience

unearthed a persistent fascination with psychopathology and murder. Website: www.vickynewham.com



Sharan Newman is a medieval historian who prefers writing fiction to footnotes. She is the author of the Catherine Levendeur mystery series, set in twelfth-century France, and an Arthurian trilogy on Guinevere. Recently, lured by money, she has published on *The Da Vinci Code*, the Templars and the end of the world. The most recent book

is a biography of Melisende, the twelfth-century queen of Jerusalem. She now lives in Ireland. Website: www.sharannewman.com

Sharan Newman's Catherine Levendeur

I needed a plausible twelfth-century protagonist, a woman who was educated but not an aristocrat. I invented a wealthy merchant's daughter who had been a student at Heloise's abbey of the Paraclete. But naming her 'Levendeur' was a dreadful anachronism. Almost no one at that time had a last name. It's been useful for advertising, but I never should have done it.



Lloyd Otis was born in London and enjoyed a stint in television production where he helped with props, scripts and rehearsals. Since then, he has written reviews for music sites, blogged for the *Bookseller* and *The Huffington Post*, and was the editor of a monthly lifestyle magazine's book section. He also appeared at Bloody Scotland's 2017

'Crime in the Spotlight' and this year has featured in *Writing Magazine's* 'New Author Profile'. Website: www.lloydotis.com

Lloyd Otis' Arlo Breck

For my protagonist, I wanted a name that represented strength because he's meant to be a protector. Arlo, believed to be an Anglo-Saxon name, means fortified hill, so it fitted the bill. Then I saw a programme showing old adverts, one of them was a cereal advert in which the kids had a superimposed glow – Ready Brek. Breck's always ready so I adjusted the surname then Arlo Breck came to life.



B.A. Paris is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Behind Closed Doors*, *The Breakdown* and *Bring Me Back*. She has sold over one million copies in the UK alone and her books have sold in thirty-seven territories around the world. She has worked both as a teacher and in finance. Having lived in France for many years, she recently moved back to the UK.



J.F. Penn is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of the ARKANE thrillers and London Psychic crime series. Her books weave together ancient artefacts, relics of power, international locations and adventure with an edge of the supernatural. Joanna lives in Bath and enjoys a nice G&T. Try a free

thriller at: www.JFPenn.com



David Penny is the author of the Thomas Berrington Historical Mysteries set in the chaotic final years of Moorish al-Andalus in Spain. He started writing again after a lapse of almost forty years. After being traditionally published in his twenties with four science fiction novels, he chose to publish independently on his return to writing. David's work is available in eBook,

print and audio, as well as translated into Spanish. Website: www.davidpennywriting.com

David Penny's Thomas Berrington

Living in North Gloucester, with both parents in Mid Wales, every other Sunday we piled into the car and drove north through the borderland between England and Wales. Just beyond Leominster sits Berrington Hall. Driving past week in week out, it must have settled into the silt of my mind. So when it came to create a character for my Historical Mysteries he had to come from Leominster, and could only be named Thomas Berrington.



Andreas Pflüger was born in Thuringia, Germany in 1957, grew up in Saarland and has been living in Berlin for many years. He studied theology and philosophy. His works include plays, screenplays for cinema and television in all genres, documentaries, radio plays and novels. In November 2017, his thriller *Into the Dark* starring blind heroine

Jenny Aaron was released by Head of Zeus. It's to be continued under the title *A Shadow Falls*. Website: www.andreaspflueger.de

Andreas Pflüger's Jenny Aaron

In the special unit where my heroine is on duty, they are all addressing each other by their second names. So the first name was less important from the start. Jenny is blind, and in search of a name, my theological studies came to my aid. The brother of Moses was called Aaron, which means 'the enlightened one'. Perfect.



Sarah Pinborough is the *Sunday Times* #1 and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Behind Her Eyes*, along with twenty-four other books including *13 Minutes*, a YA thriller currently being adapted by Netflix. Her latest adult thriller, *Cross Her Heart*, is out this CrimeFest weekend! Website: www.sarahpinborough.com



Christine Poulson was a respectable academic with a PhD in History of Art before she turned to crime. Her Cassandra James mysteries are set in Cambridge. *Deep Water*, the first in a series of medical thrillers featuring scientist Katie Flanagan, appeared in 2016. The second, *Cold, Cold Heart*, set in Antarctica, came out in 2017. Her short stories have been shortlisted for several awards, including a Derringer and the 2016 Margery Allingham Prize. Website: www.christinepoulson.co.uk



Caro Ramsay writes the Glasgow-based Anderson and Costello series, the tenth of which, *The Sideman*, will be published in June 2018. As well as writing she runs a large complementary health clinic, treating animals as well as humans. To enhance her writing, she also studied for a Diploma in Forensic Medical Science. In her spare time (?) she plays the lead role, Letitia Luvibod, in *Carry On Sleuthing: The Murder at The Knickerage* which is a Crime Writers Acting Production. CWAP For short. Website: www.caroramsay.com

Caro Ramsay's Colin Anderson

Colin started life Colin Colquhoun. Which is very Scottish – and not very easy to pronounce. So I made sure an English character appeared and stutters over the pronunciation so the character says it's pronounced 'Co Hoon'. My agent and my publisher didn't buy that for one minute. 'Think of another name!' they said. 'Urquhart?' I suggested, 'pronounced Urk Kit'. 'What about Anderson?' they said. Never argue with those who hold the chequebook.



Danielle Ramsay is a proud Scot with Algerian ancestry. The author of five DI Jack Brady books and the DS Harri Jacobs thriller, *The Last Cut*; described by Martina Cole as: 'A really cracking good read!' She was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger in 2009 and 2010. In 2011 she was a Read Regional Author. Danielle is the Patron of the charity SomeOne Cares which counsels survivors of domestic violence, rape and child abuse. Website: www.danielle-ramsay.com

Danielle Ramsay's Harri (Harriet) Jacobs DS Harri Jacobs' name came from my PhD, entitled *The Signifying Sisters: The Three Harriets*. It was based on Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose novel was credited with starting the American Civil War; Harriet E. Wilson, the first black woman published in America in 1859; and African-American escaped slave, Harriet Ann Jacobs, whose autobiographical novel documented the ills of slavery. These three nineteenth-century women used their writing to fight racial, sexual and class inequality.



Nick Rennison is a writer and editor with a particular interest in the Victorian era and crime fiction. *Carver's Quest* and *Carver's Truth*, his two novels about a nineteenth-century adventurer and his servant, were published by Corvus in 2013 and 2016. His other works include *Sherlock Holmes: The Unauthorised Biography* and *The Bloomsbury Good Reading Guide to Crime Fiction*. He is a regular reviewer of historical fiction for the *Sunday Times* and *BBC History Magazine*.

Nick Rennison's Carver and Quint
The name Carver belonged to a boy at my school. I have not seen him for fifty years but for some reason he stuck in my mind and I equipped him with a new Christian name to go out and do battle with Victorian-era villains. Quint is short for Quintus. It was only while writing the first book that I remembered he shared his name with a ghost in The Turn of the Screw.



Rod Reynolds was born in London and, after a successful career in advertising, his debut novel, *The Dark Inside*, was published by Faber in 2015. It was longlisted for the John Creasey New Blood Dagger. The sequel, *Black Night Falling*, followed in 2016, and the third Charlie Yates book, *Cold Desert Sky*, publishes in July. Rod lives in London with his wife and daughters. Contact him on Facebook or Twitter: @Rod_WR.



Kate Rhodes grew up in Greenwich. She studied in the UK and in Texas, completing a PhD then becoming an English teacher. Before her career as a crime writer, Kate wrote two award-winning collections of poetry. Kate's favourite hobby is travelling with her husband, an artist and short story writer. She lives in Cambridge and is a member of the influential crime writing group, Killer Women. Website: www.katerhodes.org

Kate Rhodes' Benesek Kitto
I wanted to give the hero of my Hell Bay series a traditional Cornish name, because the books are set in the Isles of Scilly. I remembered that the surname Kitto was relatively common on the islands, but a first name eluded me. My breakthrough moment came when I called the Cornish Tourist Board for advice. After a long, helpful conversation I was left with two good options, so I tossed a coin and Benesek won.



Michael Ridpath used to work in the City of London before becoming a writer. He has written eight financial thrillers, two spy novels and a series of crime novels featuring the American-Icelandic detective Magnus Jonson. His latest thriller, *Amnesia*, is set in the Highlands of Scotland. Website: www.michaelridpath.com

Michael Ridpath' Magnus Jonson (or Magnús Ragnarsson)
My Icelandic detective's first name was easy. The most famous male Icelander in Britain is probably Magnus Magnusson. Magnus is a great name, in Icelandic, English and Latin. However, in Iceland Magnus is written Magnús and pronounced Magnoos. So my detective, who has lived most of his life in America, is known as Magnus when he is speaking English, and Magnús when he is speaking Icelandic. Keeps the copy editors on their toes.



Mike Ripley appeared on the crime scene thirty years ago this summer with his award-winning 'Angel' series of comedy thrillers. He was crime fiction critic for the *Daily Telegraph* for ten years, a scriptwriter on BBC's *Lovejoy* and as editor for *Ostara*, republished almost one hundred out-of-print thrillers. His 'reader's history' of British thrillers, *Kiss Bang Bang*, appeared in 2017 and he is the 'continuation' author for Margery Allingham's Golden Age hero Albert Campion.

Mike Ripley's Fitzroy Maclean Angel
'Angel' came from a line in a Dire Straits song ('Just another angel walking in the wild west end'). Fitzroy Maclean after the soldier, writer, MP and Scottish clan chief Sir Fitzroy Maclean. I was once approached by an elderly lady who asked if my character had been inspired by the real one. She was Sir Fitzroy's secretary and he had sent her to ask!



Jane Robins was a journalist for many years, working for *The Economist*, the BBC and *The Independent*. Then she wrote three non-fiction books, all of them historical and about famous trials. Now, she writes psychological thrillers. *White Bodies* is her first, and she is roughly halfway through her second. She has recently

written a play – co-authored with Julie Burchill – called *People Like Us*. She lives in London, and has lately taken up wild swimming.

Jane Robins' Callie Farrow

Sometimes a character name just comes to you. I already know that my next but one novel will have a prominent character named Bryony. It wasn't like that with Callie. I knew her personality, but struggled to find a name that suited her. I wanted nothing too exotic – so not a Xannie or a Camille – at the same time not too simple or over-used – so not an Anne or a Rachel. Callie came to me after a thousand rejections. It felt like a fit.



Karen Robinson runs *The Times/Sunday Times Crime Club*, a monthly subscriber bulletin about what's new and best in crime and thriller fiction.



Amanda Robson worked in medical research at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and at the Poison's Unit at Guy's Hospital, where she became an expert on cyanide poisoning. Amanda attended the Faber novel writing course and writes full-time. Her debut novel, *Obsession*, hit the Kindle top one hundred, staying there for

weeks, and reached number 1 on iBooks. Her latest novel *Guilt* is hot off the press, just released on April 19th. Website: www.amandarobson.co.uk

Amanda Robson's Miranda, Zara and Sebastian

Miranda and Zara are the twin main characters in my latest novel, Guilt, which begins with one being stabbed to death, and the other accused of her murder. Their names suit their characters. Miranda is educated and sensible. Her sister Zara, zany. Miranda and Zara resonate off one another in name and personality. Sebastian is the anti-hero. I have always loved the name Sebastian, as it sounds dark and mysterious. My anti-hero certainly fulfils that.



Leigh Russell is described as 'unmissable' by Lee Child and 'brilliant' by Jeffery Deaver. Her Geraldine Steel series has sold over a million books. Shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger, longlisted for the CWA Dagger in the Library, and finalist for the People's Book Prize, the series has reached #1 on Kindle, and been #1 recommended crime novel in *The Times*.

Leigh chairs the CWA Debut Dagger Award and is a Royal

Literary Fellow. Website: www.leighrussell.co.uk

Leigh Russell's Geraldine Steel

When I started writing the Geraldine Steel series, I wanted to give my female detective a name derived from a man's name to reflect her situation as a woman working in a man's world. Her surname, Steel, was intended to evoke an impression of strength and resolve. As it turns out, Geraldine Steel is not my character's real name, as she discovers that she was adopted as a baby.



Michelle Sacks was born in South Africa.

She holds an MA in Literature and Film from the University of Cape Town, and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2014. She is the author of the short story collection *Stone Baby*, and her debut novel, *You Were Made for This*, will be

published in June 2018. She is currently based in Switzerland. Website: www.michellesacksauthor.com

Michelle Sacks' Merry, Frank and Samson

In a book that deals with the disconnect between the perfect image we project out into the world and the reality of our private lives, I wanted the characters' names to be at odds with their nature: therefore, Merry is decidedly lacking in merriment, Frank is the opposite of open and honest, and Samson is a man with many weaknesses.



Robert Scragg originally trained as a solicitor, then had a random mix of jobs before taking the dive into crime writing; he's been a bookseller, pizza deliverer, HR manager, karate instructor and football coach. He lives in Tyne & Wear, and his debut, *What Falls Between the Cracks*, is the first in the Porter & Styles series, with book two due early next

year. Website: www.robertscragg.com

Robert Scragg's Jake Porter

My story is one told in reverse. Jake Porter had his name plucked from thin air when I created him back in 2012. This was a few years before I met my wife. Fast-forward five years, when we found out we were expecting a baby boy, my wife (and chief proofreader) loved the name so much, she ended up naming our son after him, so now I have two Jakes in my life.

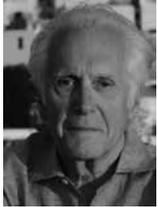


Zoë Sharp opted out of mainstream education at the age of twelve and wrote her first novel at fifteen. She is an autodidact with a love of language, house renovation, and improvised weaponry. She writes the award-winning crime thriller series featuring ex-soldier turned bodyguard Charlotte 'Charlie' Fox (latest: *Fox Hunter*: book twelve and prequel *Trial Under Fire*) and various standalones (latest: *Dancing On The Grave*) including collaborations with espionage author John Lawton. Website: www.zoesharp.com

Zoë Sharp's Charlie Fox

Some characters you agonise over what to call them, and others

just arrive, fully formed, introduce themselves and say, 'Yeah, that's my name. Live with it'. Charlie Fox (Charlotte Foxcroft as her parents would have it) was one of those. She uses her name and the changes she's made to it, as a way of escaping the experiences and shame of her past, and to rebuild. She's worked hard to make herself who she is.



Jeffrey Siger lives on the Greek island of Mykonos where he writes the Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis series, nominated for Barry and Left Coast Crime Best Novel awards. A former name partner in his own New York City law firm, Jeff gave it all up to pursue a life of crime for which he's served time as Adjunct

Professor of English at Washington & Jefferson College teaching mystery writing, and ex-Chair of Bouchercon's National Board. Website: www.jeffreysiger.com

Jeffrey Siger's Andreas Kaldis

I wanted an authoritative, yet traditional-sounding Greek name for my police chief, and settled on the first name of my best friend in Greece and the slightly modified last name of my best friend in New York. Little did I realize how prescient that choice was, for years later I learned that the name I'd chosen was the same as the real life police chief for the Athens neighbourhood my fictional chief called home.



Lilja Sigurðardóttir is an award-winning playwright and crime writer. Lilja is the author of six crime novels, critically acclaimed and bestselling in her home country of Iceland. The Reykjavík Noir Trilogy has been an international success and the first book in the series, *Snare*, was published in English by Orenda books in 2017 and the second, *Trap*,

is due in November 2018. Lilja lives in Reykjavík with her partner and dog. Website: www.liljawriter.com

Lilja Sigurðardóttir's Sonja

Icelanders have a thing for the meaning of names, as our language is transparent, but I like character names that are Greek or Biblical so that they do not mean anything in our language. I chose the name Sonja (pronounced Sonia) for the main character of Snare, only to find out later that it actually has a meaning: the wise one. Does not really fit a cocaine-smuggler having it on with a banker, does it?

Yrsa Sigurðardóttir – see appreciation on page 10.

Yrsa's Thóra Gudmundsdóttir

Thora originally was named Freyja. When the book went to print, my publisher received a call informing him the printers had just printed the first book in a new series by another author with a central character with that same name. So I got half an hour to decide on a new one with the same declension cases. Freyja was then 'find and replaced' with Thora. The other author never wrote a second book...



Abi Silver grew up in Yorkshire, has travelled widely and now lives in Hertfordshire. She is a practising lawyer and the author of the Burton & Lamb legal thriller series. Her first novel, *The Pinocchio Brief*, with its 'lie-detecting' software, invited the question, who is a better judge of truth, man or machine? Its sequel, *The Aladdin Trial*, is to

be published in June 2018. Website: www.abisilver.co.uk

Abi Silver's Judith Burton and Constance Lamb

My feisty, always-sure-she's-right, barrister's name is Judith, from the subject of the gruesome Cranach painting (holding Holofernes' head) and 'Burton' comes from the nursery rhyme line 'It did for certain said Mrs Burton'. Constance's first name was an obvious choice, to reflect her persistence and unswerving loyalty. Then I thought of 'the lion lying down with the lamb' (forgive the slight misquote) to describe my legal duo's different strengths and potentially utopian partnership.

John Simenon – see appreciation on page 14.

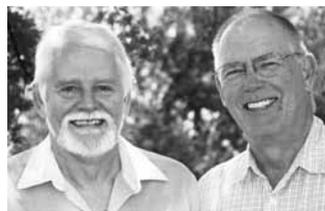
Website: www.simenon.com

Adam Sisman – see appreciation on page 15.

Gunnar Staalesen – see appreciation on page 11.

Gunnar Staalesen's Varg Veum

My private detective's last name is an ordinary Norwegian name; his first name is rarer. There is an old expression in Norse language called 'Varg i veum', meaning Wolf in a sanctuary. This was an expression used for people who were declared outlaws. Since most private detectives in crime fiction are lone wolves, and often declared outlaws, this was the reasons that I gave him that name when I created him back in the 1970s.



Michael Stanley is the writing partnership of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip. Their Detective Kubu series is set in Botswana, a fascinating country with magnificent conservation areas and varied

peoples. *Dead of Night*, to be published in July by Orenda Books, is a standalone around the insatiable Asian demand for rhino horn, and the smuggling and poaching mafia driving it. Their books have been shortlisted for many awards, including the CWA Debut Dagger. Facebook: [MichaelStanleyBooks](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelStanleyBooks). Twitter: [@detectivekubu](https://twitter.com/detectivekubu). Website: www.detectivekubu.com

Michael Stanley's Detective Kubu

In our first novel, the detective wasn't meant to be the protagonist, but one had to investigate the murder. So, a large, overweight, focused detective set off in his Land Rover. As he drove, he recalled how he'd become a detective and acquired his nickname 'Kubu'. Kubu means hippopotamus in the local language. it suited him perfectly. To our surprise, when he reached the crime scene, he'd taken over the story.



Linda Stratmann is the author of two crime fiction series with Victorian settings and female sleuths. In the Bayswater murder mysteries, young, determined Frances Doughty combats both wily criminals and prejudice against lady detectives. In Brighton, diminutive Mina Scarletti writes ghost

stories and exposes fraudulent spirit mediums who extort money from the vulnerable bereaved. Linda has also written biography and true crime, including a history of nineteenth-century poison murder. Website: www.lindastratmann.com

Linda Stratmann's Frances Doughty

The name Frances is a tribute to a wonderful lady who once worked at Bletchley Park. A serendipitous meeting in a Gloucestershire graveyard led to her kind and invaluable assistance in my research. Doughty is the name of the street where Charles Dickens once lived, and is a perfect description of my brave and determined sleuth.



William Sutton teaches classics, wrote radio drama, acted in the world's longest play, and played cricket for Brazil. He plays bass for chansonnier Philip Jeays and cricket for Authors CC. In Portsmouth Bookfest, he's compered Day of the Dead, Valentine's Day Massacre, and Guide to Victorian Sex.

Historical mystery *Lawless and the Flowers of*

Sin was among *Mail* on Sunday's Books of 2016. Titan Books published *Lawless* and the *House of Electricity* in September. Website: www.william-sutton.co.uk

William Sutton's Campbell Lawless

I loved Cameron Colley in Iain Banks' crime thriller Complicity, but Campbells loom large in my life. My first stories were written with best friend Dallas Campbell (TV science presenter). Mythographer Joseph Campbell unveiled The Hero's Journey. Theatre guru Ken Campbell taught me dramatic structure and status games. My friend sent down from University College, Oxford, for punching a certain Martin Lawless. 'I deserved it', said Lawless. That's my type of hero.



Andrew Taylor has won the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger, the Historical Dagger (three times) and other awards. His books include the international bestseller, *The American Boy*; the Roth Trilogy (filmed for TV as *Fallen Angel*); the Dougal Series and the Lydmouth Series; and, most recently, *The Times* number

one bestseller *The Ashes of London* and its sequel *The Fire Court*. He also reviews for the *Spectator* and *The Times*. See: @andrewjrtaylor. Website: www.andrew-taylor.co.uk

Andrew Taylor's Dougal

The family murderer, as my grandmother called him, gave me the name for Dougal, the protagonist of my first series, who commits murders as well as solves them. In 1899, Grandma's family sold the Moat Farm in Essex to the murderer, a conman named Samuel Dougal, and his victim Miss Holland, a lady with a romantic heart and too much money for her own safety. Dougal was eventually hanged for her murder, but his name lives on...



C.L. Taylor is the *Sunday Times* bestselling author of five standalone psychological thrillers – *The Accident*, *The Lie*, *The Missing*, *The Escape* and *The Fear*. She has also written a young adult thriller *The Treatment*. Her award-winning books have been published in twenty-one countries and have sold a million copies in the UK alone. Cally lives in Bristol

with her partner and young son.

C.L. Taylor's Lou Wandsworth

My main character in The Fear, Lou Wandsworth, is so called because I needed a surname so unusual that a Facebook search (in the plot) would only yield one result. I chose Lou (short for Louise) as it was popular name in 1975 when my character was born. It's a friendly name. Lou could be your best friend or someone you work with. She's an ordinary woman who finds herself in an extraordinary situation.

Robert Thorogood - see appreciation on page 13.

Robert Thorogood's Richard Poole

I had a friend at the Met Police called Richard, so the first name came easily. For the surname, I chose 'Gill' because I liked the idea of someone who hated swimming having that surname. But, guess what? We learned there was a real life DI Richard Gill at the Met Police. So that's when I swapped Gill for Poole. After all, if my lead couldn't swim, then Poole was just as appropriate a surname.



Charles Todd is a writing team of Caroline Todd and Charles Todd, the bestselling authors of the Inspector Ian Rutledge series, (*Racing the Devil*, *The Gate Keeper*, etc.), the Bess Crawford series, (*The Shattered Tree*, *A Casualty of War*, etc.), and two standalones, as well as numerous short stories, set at the time of the Great War. They travel extensively in

Britain for research, but presently live on the East Coast of the US. Website: www.charlestodd.com

Charles Todd's Ian Rutledge

A series character needs a name that's strong as well as memorable. What better for a shell-shocked Great War veteran returning to his career at Scotland Yard than Ian Rutledge? The first Scottish, the last English, and both a nod to two books we'd loved. The odd thing is, British fans always refer to him as Rutledge, while Americans call him Ian. We tend to call him Rutledge, since he's an Englishman. It seemed – fitting.



Nick Triplow is the author of the crime novel *Frank's Wild Years*, and *Getting Carter: Ted Lewis and the Birth of Brit Noir*, a biography of British noir pioneer, Ted Lewis. Nick's short story, *Face Value*, was a winner in the 2015 Northern Crime competition. Other stories have appeared in the *Off the Record* and *True Brit Grit* crime anthologies and online. Originally from South

London, Nick now lives in Barton upon Humber.



L.C. Tyler writes two crime series: the Herring Mysteries (currently optioned for television) and a historical series featuring seventeenth-century lawyer and spy, John Grey. He has twice won CrimeFest's Goldsboro Last Laugh Award and was awarded the 2017 CWA Short Story Dagger. He has lived and worked all over the world but has more

recently been based in London and West Sussex. Represented by DHH. Website: www.lctyler.com

L.C. Tyler's Ethelred Tressider

Names for characters often come from nowhere and get changed arbitrarily as the book proceeds. In The Herring Seller's Apprentice, my starting point was that the narrator disliked his name, along with most other aspects of his life. That he should be called Ethelred Tressider came to me very early on, and it never needed changing. Later I discovered that I'd misspelt his surname. It's what you call adding insult to injury.



Nicola Upson's crime novels featuring the author Josephine Tey have been praised as 'historical crime fiction at its very best' (*Sunday Times*). Set in the 1930s, they weave original murder mysteries around a celebration of Tey's life and work, bridging the Golden Age and the contemporary. The latest, *Nine Lessons*, takes readers from Cambridge to the Suffolk

coast, following a series of audacious murders inspired by M.R. James's famous ghost stories.

Nicola Upson's Archie Penrose

My Josephine Tey series started when a biography I was writing floundered. My partner uttered the words: 'For God's sake, make it up!' We were staying on Cornwall's Penrose Estate, so when I created Josephine's detective friend, Archie Penrose, I named him after the place where the idea was born. It's beautiful: woodland surrounding a lake, separated from the sea by an unspoiled stretch of sand. Years later, it's become our home, just as it's Archie's.



Sarah Vaughan was brought up in Devon and read English at Brasenose College, Oxford. After training at the Press Association, she spent eleven years on the *Guardian* as a news reporter and political correspondent. Her experience in the lobby and in court reporting inspired her third novel about power, privilege,

consent and perceptions of truth. She is married with two children and lives just outside Cambridge. Website: www.sarahvaughanauthor.com

Sarah Vaughan's James Whitehouse

When I needed a name for my charismatic junior minister, James Whitehouse seemed perfect: James, because it's such a middle or upper-middle-class name, and Whitehouse because it suggests purity and security – a white house – while alluding to something very different. Anatomy of a Scandal explores the power of dangerous men – and who illustrates this more brutally than the current inhabitant of The White House?



Christopher Wakling's seven novels include *What I Did*, *The Devil's Mask*, and *Escape and Evasion* (Faber 2018). He teaches creative writing at Curtis Brown Creative and The Arvon Foundation, and has held Royal Literary Fund fellowships at Bristol University, UWE and Cardiff University.

Before turning to writing he worked as a lawyer in the City. He also writes travel journalism. Website: www.christopherwakling.com

Christopher Wakling's Joseph Ashcroft

Escape and Evasion is about Joseph Ashcroft, a rogue banker at Airdeen Clore. He kicks things off by stealing a vast sum from the bank, giving it all away, and running for his life. The story reveals why he did this and whether or not he escapes. He was always Joseph, but originally 'Ashcrop'. That name gave too much away. My first novel was about Lewis Penn. Loosen the pen. I quite liked that.



Sarah Ward is the author of three DC Childs novels, *In Bitter Chill*, *A Deadly Thaw* and *A Patient Fury* set in the Derbyshire Peak District. *A Patient Fury* was the *Observer's* Thriller of the Month in 2017. The fourth in the series, *The Shrouded Path*, is out in September. She is a book reviewer for various

online publications and is a judge for the Petrona Award for Scandinavian crime fiction. Website: www.crimepieces.com

Sarah Ward's Connie Childs

I had an Auntie Connie who wasn't really my aunt but lived next door to my grandparents in Cardiff. She was a tiny woman who'd had to deal with tragic events but her forceful personality and inquiring mind meant I couldn't wait to see her. When I was thinking of a first name for my diminutive but strong-willed DC, the first name I thought of was Connie.



Roz Watkins is the author of the DI Meg Dalton series, which is set in the Peak District where Roz lives with her partner and a menagerie of demanding animals. She was previously a patent attorney, so it was inevitable a dead one would crop up in her fiction and indeed one is found poisoned in a cave in her debut, *The Devil's Dice*, which

was shortlisted for the Debut Dagger award. Website: www.rozwatkins.co.uk



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Camilla Way is the author of the bestselling psychological thriller *Watching Edie*. Her debut thriller, *The Dead Of Summer*, was shortlisted for the CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger. Having worked as a magazine editor for a number of years she now writes full time and lives in south-east London where

her novels are set. *The Lies We Told* is out in May 2018. Twitter @CamillaLWay



Laura Wilson is the author of thirteen acclaimed and award-winning psychological crime novels. The first novel in her D.I. Stratton series, *Stratton's War*, won the CWA Ellis Peters Award for Best Historical Mystery. Her fifth novel, *The Lover*, won the Prix du

Polar European, and two of her books have been shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger. Her latest novel is *The Other Woman*. She is the *Guardian's* crime fiction reviewer. Website: www.laura-wilson.co.uk



Matt Wesolowski is an author from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. He is an English tutor for young people in care and a creative writing mentor for young writers. Matt was a winner of the Pitch Perfect competition in 2015, and his winning thriller, *Six Stories*, achieved massive critical acclaim, was a number-one bestseller in ebook, and was sold to Hollywood

for a major motion picture. *Hydra*, a loose prequel to *Six Stories*, was released in December 2017.

Matt Wesolowski's Scott King

Scott King was never supposed to be an important character, simply a vessel for the story with the same initials as Sarah Koenig, presenter of Serial. To find his name, I flicked through two books on my bookshelf at random and chose the first names I came across. Scott – I don't even remember where it came from but King is the surname of my hero, Stephen.



Robert Wilson won the CWA Gold Dagger (1999) for *A Small Death in Lisbon*. His fourteen novels include the Javier Falcón books set in Seville (two filmed by Sky Atlantic in 2012). *Capital Punishment* started his London series featuring kidnap consultant Charles Boxer. Nominated for the Steel Dagger 2013, it was followed by *You Will Never Find Me*,

Stealing People, and *Hear No Lies*. Work in progress: A WW2 spy thriller set in Paris and Lisbon. Website: www.robert-wilson.eu



Felicia Yap's debut thriller *Yesterday* is being published around the world in multiple languages. Her novel is about a murder that takes place in a world where most people only remember yesterday. Felicia has been a radioactive-cell biologist, a war historian, a university lecturer, a technology journalist, a theatre critic, a flea-market trader, and a catwalk model. She was selected by the *Observer* as a Rising Star for Fiction. Website: www.feliciayap.com



Chris Whitaker was born in London and spent ten years working as a financial trader in the city. His debut novel, *Tall Oaks*, won the CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger. Chris's second novel, *All The Wicked Girls*, was published in August 2017. He lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and two young sons.



Kevin Wignall is the author of nine novels, a number of acclaimed short stories, and several books for young adults. His work has been shortlisted for both the Edgar and Barry awards, as well as being adapted for the screen, most recently in the film of *The Hunter's Prayer*. Website: www.kevinwignall.com

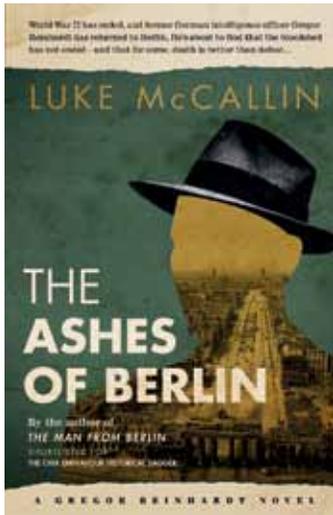
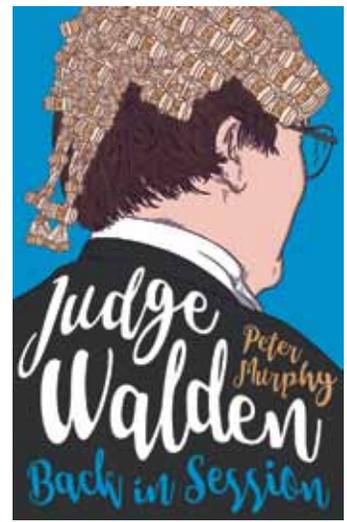
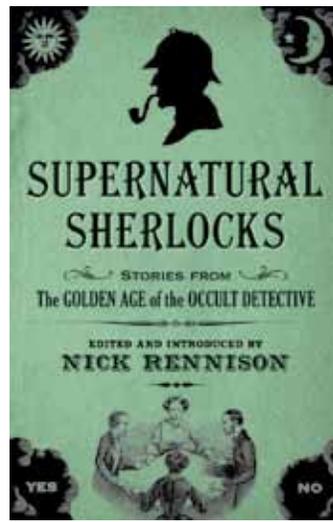
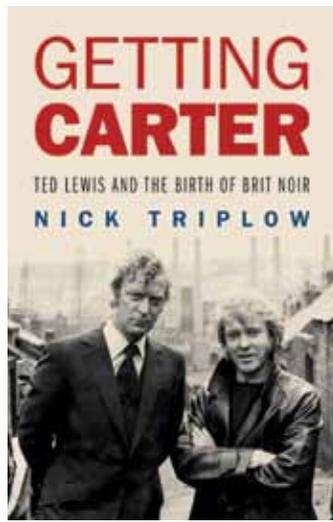
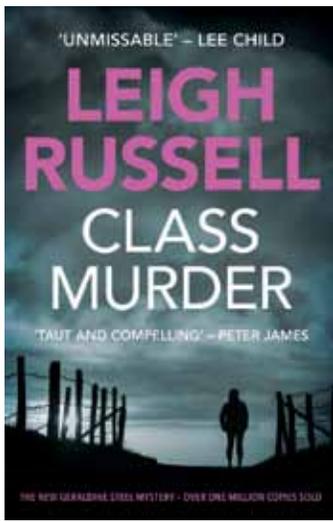


Debbie Young writes warm, witty cosy mysteries set in a small Cotswold village inspired by the Gloucestershire community in which she has lived for most of her adult life. Her seven-book Sophie Sayers Village

Mysteries series, described as 'Miss Marple meets Bridget Jones', begins with *Best Murder in Show* and runs the course of a village year from one summer to the next. The fourth, *Murder by the Book*, was launched in April 2018. Website: www.authordebbieyoung.com

Debbie Young's Sophie Sayers

I wanted to pay tribute to Dorothy L Sayers, author of the wonderful Lord Peter Wimsey mystery series from the Golden Age of Crime Writing, but I couldn't call my heroine Dorothy because my calico cat had already nabbed that name. So Sayers it had to be – which provided a pleasingly alliterative and memorable match to one of my favourite first names, Sophie. I have to say I think it rather suits her.



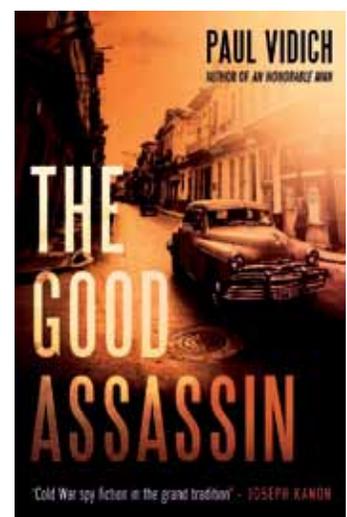
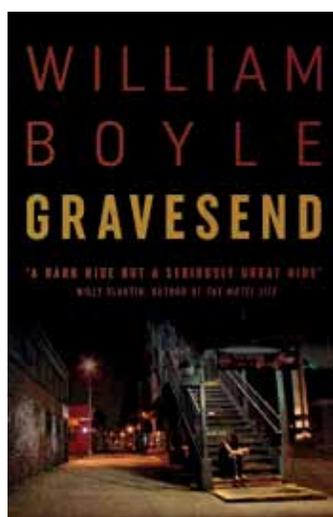
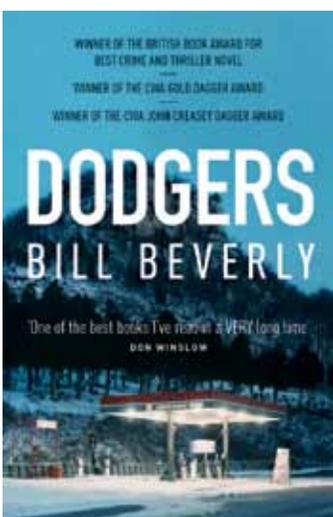
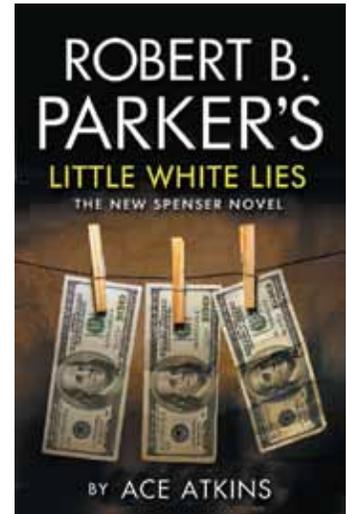
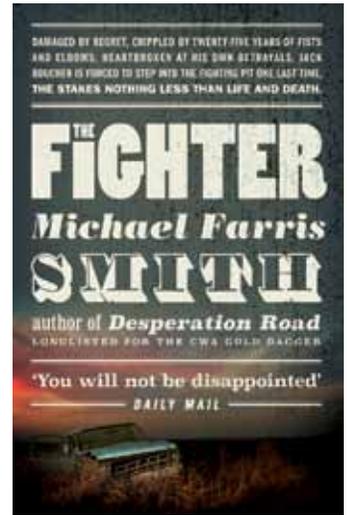


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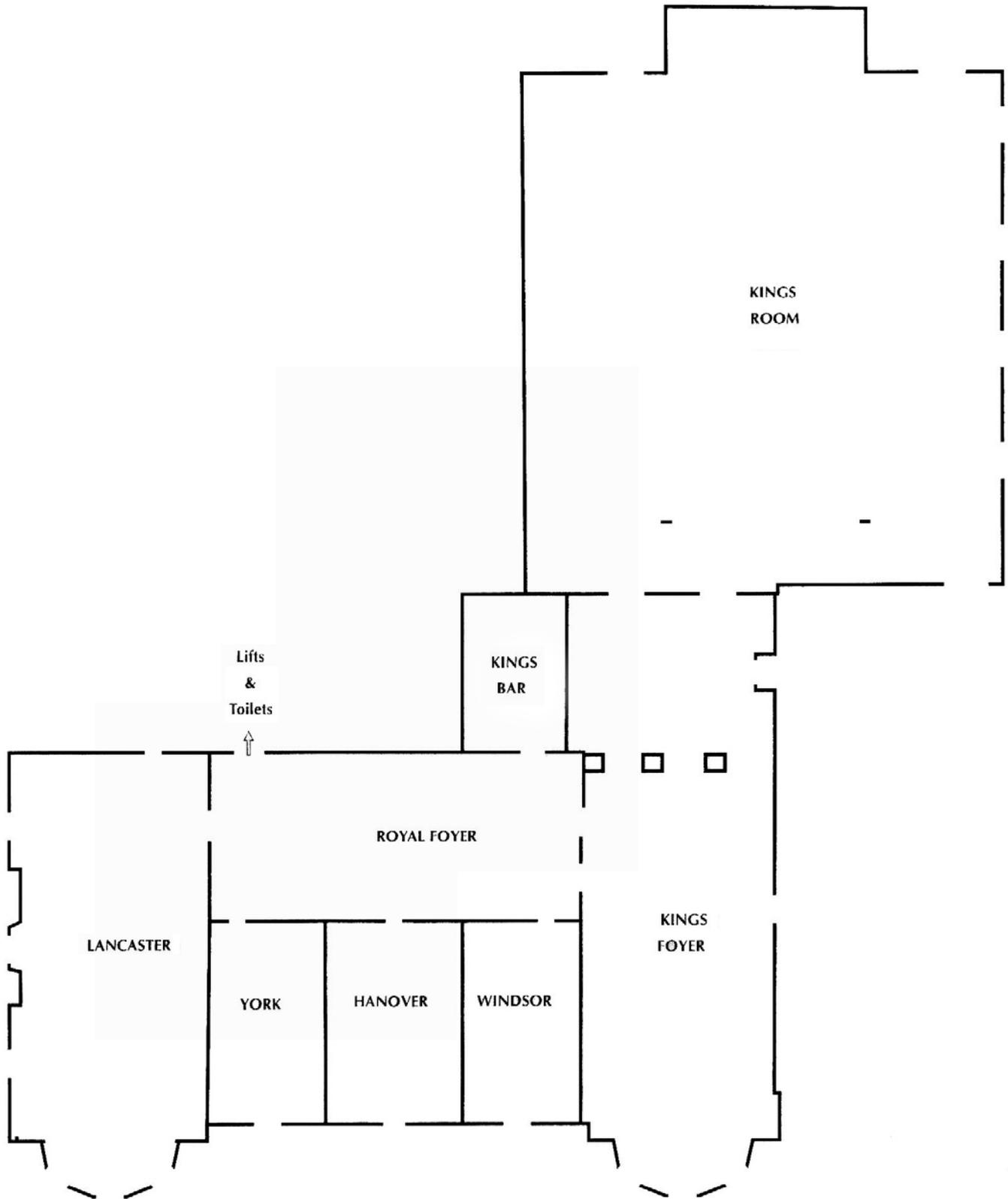
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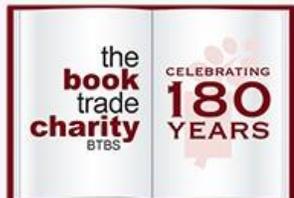
- Longlists for the CWA Daggers 2018
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12.00–18.00: ROYAL FOYER – REGISTRATION

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13.30–14.20	DEBUT AUTHORS: AN INFUSION OF FRESH BLOOD • T.A. Cotterell • J.D. Fennell • Olivia Kiernan • Jane Robins • Felicia Yap Moderator: Karen Robinson	
14.40–15.30	BOOK 'EM, DANNO: WRITING THE POLICE PROCEDURAL • M.W. Craven • Paul Finch • Leigh Russell • Robert Scragg Participating Moderator: Elly Griffiths	CLIMATE CHANGE: COLD CRIMES AND HOT HOMICIDES • Quentin Bates • Kjell Ola Dahl* • Lilja Sigurðardóttir • Robert Wilson Participating Moderator: Michael Stanley (Stan Trollip)
15.50–16.40	CRIME THROUGH THE MILLENNIA • Ruth Downie • Sharan Newman • David Penny • Andrew Taylor Participating Moderator: Antonia Hodgson	DARKNESS AND LIGHT: ARE YOU COSY OR NOIR? • Rosie Claverton • Jane Corry • Chris Curran • Dolores Gordon-Smith Participating Moderator: Cathy Ace
17.00–17.50	AUTHORS REMEMBERED • Chris Curran (on Winston Graham) • John Lawton (on Adam Hall) • Christine Poulson (on Hillary Waugh) • Nick Triplow (on Ted Lewis) • Sarah Ward (on Pamela Branch) Participating moderator: Martin Edwards (on E.C.R. Lorac)	LOVE CAN BE DEADLY • Christi Daugherty • Caroline England • Michael Malone • Jane Robins Participating Moderator: Linda Stratmann
20.00–21.30	CRIMEFEST Pub Quiz , with crime writer and critic Peter Guttridge as your quiz inquisitor. Prizes to be won! Location: Kings Room (ticket holders only)	

*with thanks to the Norwegian Embassy and Norla

PANEL AND EVENTS SCHEDULE THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2018



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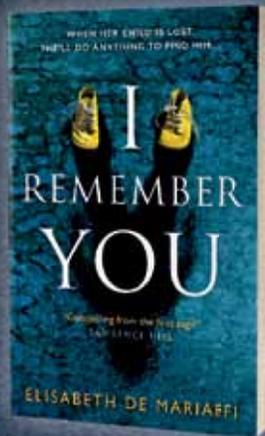
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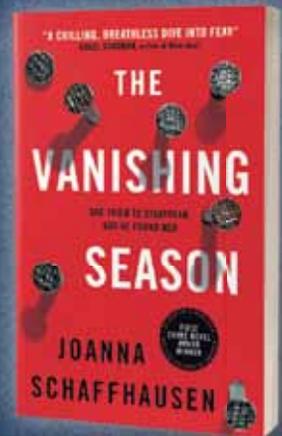
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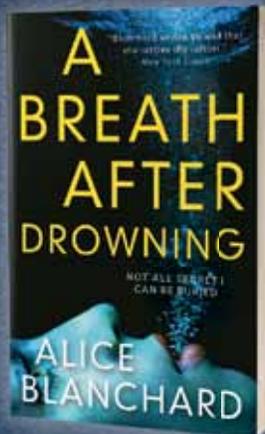
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"Blanchard's artistry whips up excitement... She writes so well that she rattles the rafters."
New York Times

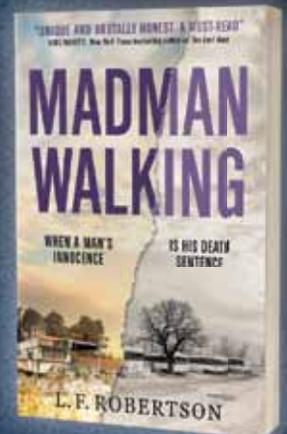
OUT NOW



MADMAN WALKING **L. F. ROBERTSON**

"John Grisham had better look to his laurels—there's a new writer of legal thrillers in town." Richard A. Lupoff, author of *The Classic Car Killer*

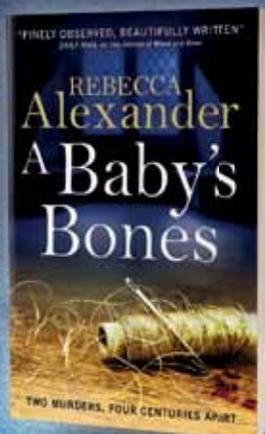
OUT MAY



A BABY'S BONES **REBECCA ALEXANDER**

"Finely observed beautifully written" *Daily Mail* on *The Secrets of Life and Death*

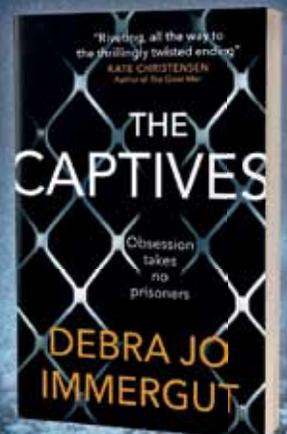
OUT MAY



THE CAPTIVES **DEBRA JO IMMERGUT**

"Riveting, all the way to the thrillingly twisted ending" Kate Christensen, author of *The Great Man*

OUT JUNE



	LANCASTER	KINGS FOYER	KINGS ROOM
9.00–9.50	DEBUT AUTHORS: AN INFUSION OF FRESH BLOOD • Emily Elgar • Caroline England • Chris McGeorge • Elizabeth Mundy • Robert Scragg Moderator: Karen Robinson	GENRE AND SUB-GENRE: WHY WE WRITE WHAT WE WRITE • Valentina 'V.M.' Giambanco • Amanda Robson • Leigh Russell • Michelle Sacks Participating Moderator: Alison Joseph	
10.10–11.00	SPECIAL (DIS?)ABILITIES • Ross Armstrong • Will Dean • Andreas Pflüger • Charles Todd Participating Moderator: Jeffery Deaver	THE VICTORIANS: FROM INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TO COVERING PIANO LEGS • Diana Bretherick • Nick Rennison • Linda Stratmann • William Sutton Participating Moderator: Kate Griffin	ACTING ON IMPULSE: BAD BEHAVIOUR • Cathy Ace • Kate Medina • Mel Sherratt • Camilla Way Participating Moderator: Steph Broadribb
11.20–12.10	'MORE LAW, LESS JUSTICE': WAS CICERO RIGHT? • William McIntyre • Peter Murphy • Yrsa Sigurðardóttir • Sarah Vaughan Participating Moderator: L.C. Tyler	IN ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND • M.W. Craven • Martin Edwards • Mari Hannah • Emma Kavanagh Participating Moderator: Sarah Ward	DIAL 999 • Alison Bruce • John Harvey • Sarah Hilary • Anja de Jager Participating Moderator: Andrew Taylor
12.30–13.20	CRIME IN A TIME OF WAR • Mark Ellis • J.D. Fennell • Luke McCallin • Robert Wilson Participating Moderator: Caroline Todd	POWER, CORRUPTION AND GREED: JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE • Jeff Dowson • Thomas Enger* • Abir Mukherjee • Abi Silver Participating Moderator: Jeffrey Siger	DETECTING DUOS • C.J. Carver • Elly Griffiths • Johana Gustawson • Priscilla Masters Participating Moderator: Ruth Dudley Edwards
13.40–14.30	KRIMI PANEL • Oliver Bottini • Simone Buchholz • Dirk Kurbjuweit • Andreas Pflüger Participating Moderator: Kat Hall With thanks to the Goethe-Institut London	LIFE WITH THE DULL BITS CUT OUT • Tom Harper • Olivia Kiernan • Stephanie Marland • Chris McGeorge Participating Moderator: Kevin Wignall In association with International Thriller Writers	DOMESTIC MALICE: WHEN YOUR PARTNER CAN'T BE TRUSTED • T.A. Cotterell • Alex Dahl • B.A. Paris • Felicia Yap Participating Moderator: Laura Wilson
14.50–15.40	GOING UNDERCOVER: PIS AND OTHER INVESTIGATORS • Ruth Downie • Felix Francis • Antonia Hodgson • S.S. Mausooof Participating Moderator: Mason Cross	10 YEAR STRETCH: THE CRIMEFEST ANTHOLOGY • Simon Brett • Lee Child • Martin Edwards • Yrsa Sigurðardóttir Participating Moderator: Donna Moore	FAMILIES CAN BE MURDER • Louise Candlish • Sam Carrington • Amanda Jennings • C.L. Taylor Participating Moderator: Amanda Robson
16.00–16.50	JOHN BANVILLE & JOHN SIMENON Interviewer: Maxim Jakubowski	WRITING PAIRS: IS TWO A CROWD? • Charles Todd • Caroline Todd • Michael Stanley (Michael Sears) • Michael Stanley (Stanley Trollip) Moderator: Karen Robinson	HOT OFF THE PRESS: JOURNALISTS IN CRIME FICTION • Anne Coates • Christi Daugherty • Thomas Enger* • Rod Reynolds Participating Moderator: Matt Wesolowski
17.10–18.00		SMALL TOWN, BIG CITY • Sarah Hilary • Vaseem Khan • Michael Ridpath • Chris Whitaker Participating Moderator: Peter Guttridge	BLOODY SCOTLAND • Tana Collins • Lesley Kelly • Douglas Lindsay • Caro Ramsay Participating Moderator: Michael Malone With a nod to our colleagues: www.bloodyscotland.com
18.30–19.30	CRIMEFEST hosts the Crime Writers' Association's Dagger Announcement Reception. Location: Kings Room		

*With thanks to the Norwegian Embassy and Norla/ ^with thanks to the Goethe-Institut London

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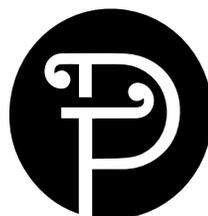
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CRIMEFEST

	LANCASTER	KING FOYER	KINGS ROOM
9.00– 9.50	W IS FOR WOMAN – SOMETHING TO PROVE? • Jane Casey • Niki Mackay • Christine Poulson • Zoë Sharp Participating Moderator: Sharan Newman	COLD CHILLS: A TOUCH OF THE SUPERNATURAL • Rebecca Alexander • B.E. Jones • J.F. Penn • Roz Watkins Participating Moderator: Kate Ellis	DEBUT AUTHORS: AN INFUSION OF FRESH BLOOD • Alex Dahl • Will Dean • Iain Maitland • Vicky Newham • Lloyd Otis Moderator: Jake Kerridge
10.10– 11.00	IT'S ALL IN THE MIND: PSYCHOLOGY, OBSESSION AND PARANOIA • Louise Candlish • Elodie Harper • Dirk Kurbjuweit^ • B.A. Paris Participating Moderator: Kate Rhodes	CENTURY OF CHANGE: TWENTIETH-CENTURY CRIME FICTION • Dolores Gordon Smith • Janet Laurence • Gunnar Staalesen • Nicola Upson Participating Moderator: Rod Reynolds	I COULD TELL YOU, BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU: SPYING FOR A LIVING • M.J. Carter • Charles Cumming • John Lawton • Adrian Magson Participating Moderator: Michael Ridpath
11.30– 12.30			FEATURED GUEST AUTHORS LEE CHILD & JEFFERY DEAVER Interviewer: Jake Kerridge
13.00– 13.50	IF I DIDN'T LAUGH, I'D DIE: HUMOUR IN CRIME FICTION • Ruth Dudley Edwards • Peter Guttridge • Vaseem Khan • Laura Wilson Participating Moderator: Simon Brett	HISTORICAL NOIR: CAN HISTORICAL FICTION BE NOIR? • M.J. Carter • Kate Ellis • Alis Hawkins • Abir Mukherjee Participating Moderator: Barry Forshaw	SECRETS AND REVEALS: RAMPING UP THE TENSION • Emily Elgar • Felix Francis • Steve Mosby • Robert Thorogood Participating Moderator: Caro Ramsay
14.10– 15.00	GANGSTERS & VILLAINS: WHEN YOU WRITE ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW • Simone Buchholz^ • Jeremy Cameron • Kimberley Chambers • Kate Griffin Moderator: Maxim Jakubowski	KISS KISS, BANG BANG: CLASSIC THRILLERS • C.J. Carver • Lee Child • Mike Ripley • Zoë Sharp Participating Moderator: Jake Kerridge	FOLLOW THE MONEY: FINANCIAL CRIMES • Peter Beck • Stephen Davis • Lilja Sigurðardóttir • Chris Wakling Participating Moderator: Quentin Bates
15:20 – 16:10	GETTING PERSONAL – PRIVATE LIVES OF CHARACTERS • Kjell Ola Dahl* • Mari Hannah • Priscilla Masters • Jeffrey Siger Participating Moderator: Michael Stanley (Michael Sears)	REAL PEOPLE: THE FACTS IN THE FICTION • Mark Ellis (various WWII people) • Alison Joseph (Agatha Christie) • L.C. Tyler (Oliver Cromwell) • Nicola Upson (Josephine Tey) Participating Moderator: David Penny (various people from Moorish Spain)	LEGACIES: IAN FLEMING VS JOHN LE CARRÉ • Charlie Higson (for Ian Fleming) • Adam Sisman (for John le Carré) Moderator: Peter Guttridge With thanks to Ian Fleming Publications
16:40 – 17:30			FEATURED GUEST AUTHORS MARTINA COLE & PETER JAMES Interviewer: Peter Guttridge
18.30– 19.30	HarperCollins Pre-Gala Dinner Reception: Launching THE KIMBERLEY CHAMBERS KICKSTART; opening doors to crime writing (all Full Pass holders welcome). Location: Kings Foyer		
19.30	CRIMEFEST Awards Dinner – ticket holders only. Location: Kings Room		

*With thanks to the Norwegian Embassy and Norla / ^ With thanks to the Goethe-Institut London



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	LANCASTER	KINGS FOYER
9.30–10.20	DEBUT AUTHORS: AN INFUSION OF FRESH BLOOD • Peter Beck • S.S. Mausooof • Michelle Sacks • Abi Silver • Roz Watkins Moderator: Jake Kerridge	THE INDIE ALTERNATIVE • Ian Andrew • Karen Millie James • Alison Morton • Debbie Young Participating Moderator: Zoë Sharp
10.40–11.30	IT'S NEWS TO ME: WRITING ABOUT SOCIAL AND TOPICAL ISSUES • Vicky Newham • Lloyd Otis • Kate Rhodes • Chris Whitaker Participating Moderator: Valentina 'V.M.' Giambanco	FEATURED GUEST AUTHORS AND FORMER PETRONA WINNERS YRSA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR & GUNNAR STAALESEN* Interviewer: Barry Forshaw
11.50–12.40	DARK PLACES: PLUMBING THE DEPTHS • Candy Denman • Iain Maitland • Danielle Ramsay • Matt Wesolowski Participating Moderator: Steve Mosby	GIVE ME A BREAK: PUTTING CHARACTERS THROUGH THE MILL • Oliver Bottini • James Carol • Alis Hawkins • Sarah Pinborough Participating Moderator: Maxim Jakubowski
13.00–13.50	KINGS ROOM	
	I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUEDO • Alison Bruce, Ruth Dudley Edwards and Yrsa Sigurðardóttir vs • Lee Child, Jeffery Deaver and Andrew Taylor Quiz Master: Mike Ripley (with lovely assistant Peter Guttridge) WIN A FLIGHT AND PASS TO ICELAND NOIR (courtesy of the organisers of Iceland Noir)	

*With thanks to the Norwegian Embassy and Norla

CRIMINAL CALENDAR

HARROGATE CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL
 19-22 July, 2018
 Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate
<http://harrogateinternationalfestivals.com/crime-writing-festival>

BOUCHERCON
 World Mystery Convention
 6-9 September, 2018
 St. Petersburg, Florida
www.bouchercon2018.com

ST HILDA'S CRIME & MYSTERY WEEKEND
 17-19 August, 2018
 St. Hilda's College, Oxford
development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk
<https://www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/content/mystery-and-crime-2018-booking-form>

MAGNA CUM MURDER XXIV
 19-24 October, 2018
 Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
www.magnacummurder.com

BLOODY SCOTLAND
 21-23 September, 2018
 Stirling
www.bloodyscotland.com

ICELAND NOIR
 16-18 November, 2018
 Reykjavik
<http://www.icelandnoir.com>

NoirWich Crime Writing Festival
 13-16 September, 2018
 Norwich
<https://noirwich.co.uk>

LEFT COAST CRIME
 28-31 March, 2019
 Vancouver, Canada
<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2019>

MALICE DOMESTIC 31
 3 - 5 May, 2019
 Bethesda, Maryland, USA
www.malicedomestic.org

AWARDS

THE 2018 CRIMEFEST AWARDS SHORTLISTS

Winners will be announced at the CRIMEFEST Gala Dinner on Saturday, 19 May



Audible SOUNDS OF CRIME AWARD

The Audible Sounds of Crime Award is for the best unabridged crime audiobook first published in the UK in 2017 in both printed and audio formats, and available for download from audible.co.uk, Britain's largest provider of downloadable audiobooks. Courtesy of sponsor Audible UK, the winning author and audiobook reader(s) share the £1,000 prize equally and each receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Nominees for Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook:

- Fiona Barton for *The Child*, read by Clare Corbett, Adjoa Andoh, Finty Williams, Fenella Woolgar, Steven Pacey (Audible/Transworld)
- Lee Child for *The Midnight Line*, read by Jeff Harding (Penguin Random House Audio)
- J.P. Delaney for *The Girl Before*, read by Emilia Fox, Finty Williams, Lise Aagaard Knudsen (Quercus)
- Sarah A. Denzil for *Silent Child* read by Joanne Froggatt (Audible Studios/CreateSpace Independent Publishing)
- Alice Feeney for *Sometimes I Lie*, read by Stephanie Racine (HQ)
- Michelle Frances for *The Girlfriend*, read by Antonia Beamish (Pan Macmillan Audio)
- Anthony Horowitz for *The Word is Murder*, read by Rory Kinnear (Penguin Random House Audio)
- David Lagercrantz for *The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye*, read by Saul Reichlin (Quercus)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and Audible UK listeners established the shortlist and the winning title.

eDUNNIT AWARD

The eDunnit Award is for the best crime fiction ebook first published in both hardcopy and in electronic format in the British Isles in 2017. The winning author receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Nominees for the eDunnit Award:

- Linwood Barclay for *The Twenty-Three* (Orion Publishing Group)
- Chris Brookmyre, *Want You Gone* (Little, Brown Book Group)
- Ken Bruen, *The Ghosts of Galway* (Head of Zeus)
- Michael Connelly, *The Late Show* (Orion)
- Joe Ide, *IQ* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)
- Dennis Lehane, *Since We Fell* (Little, Brown Book Group)
- Steve Mosby, *You Can Run* (Orion)
- Gunnar Staalesen, *Wolves in the Dark* (Orenda Books)
- Sarah Stovell, *Exquisite* (Orenda Books)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers voted to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

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AWARDS

THE 2018 CRIMEFEST AWARDS SHORTLISTS

Winners will be announced at the CRIMEFEST Gala Dinner on Saturday, 19 May

H.R.F. KEATING AWARD

The H.R.F. Keating Award is for the best biographical or critical book related to crime fiction first published in the British Isles in 2017. H.R.F. 'Harry' Keating was one of Britain's most esteemed crime novelists, and a renowned reviewer and writer of books about crime fiction. The winning author receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

H.R.F. Keating Award Nominees

- Martin Edwards for *The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books* (British Library)
- Barry Forshaw for *America Noir* (No Exit Press)
- Sam Naidu for *Sherlock Holmes in Context* (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Benjamin Poore for *Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage* (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Mike Ripley for *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang* (HarperCollins)
- Christopher Sandford for *The Man Who Would Be Sherlock* (The History Press)
- Michael Sims for *Arthur & Sherlock* (Bloomsbury)
- Nick Triplow for *Getting Carter* (No Exit Press)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers voted to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

LAST LAUGH AWARD

The Last Laugh Award is for the best humorous crime novel first published in the British Isles in 2017. The winner receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Last Laugh Nominees

- Simon Brett for *Blotto, Twinks and the Stars of the Silver Screen* (Little, Brown Book Group)
- Christopher Fowler for *Bryant & May – Wild Chamber* (Doubleday)
- Mick Herron for *Spook Street* (John Murray)
- Vaseem Khan for *The Strange Disappearance of a Bollywood Star* (Mullholland Books)
- Khurram Rahman for *East of Hounslow* (HQ)
- C.J. Skuse for *Sweetpea* (HQ)
- Antti Tuomainen for *The Man Who Died* (Orenda Books)
- L.C. Tyler for *Herring in the Smoke* (Allison & Busby Ltd)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers voted to establish the shortlist and the winning title.



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AWARDS

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Winners will be announced at the CRIMEFEST Gala Dinner on Saturday, 19 May

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR CHILDREN (8–12)

The Best Crime Novel for Children Award is for the best children's novel (8–12) related to crime fiction first published in the British Isles in 2017. The winning author receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

Best Crime Novel for Children (8–12) Nominees

- Linwood Barclay for *Chase* (Orion Children's Books)
- Kieran Crowley for *The Misfits Club* (Macmillan Children's Books)
- Helena Duggan for *A Place Called Perfect* (Usborne Publishing)
- Santa Montefiore and Simon Sebag Montefiore for *The Royal Rabbits of London: Escape from the Tower* (Simon & Schuster)
- Dermot O'Leary for *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape* (Hodder Children's Books)
- Alex T. Smith for *Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure* (Hodder Children's Books)
- Harriet Whitehorn for *Violet and the Mummy Mystery* (Simon & Schuster)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and a team of British booksellers and reviewers of children's fiction voted to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR YOUNG ADULTS (12–16)

The Best Crime Novel for Young Adults is for the best children's novel (12–16) related to crime fiction first published in the British Isles in 2017. The winning author receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

Best Crime Novel for Young Adults (12–16) Nominees

- Cat Clarke for *Girlhood* (Quercus Children's Books)
- Zana Fraillon for *The Ones That Disappeared* (Orion Children's Books)
- Will Hill for *After the Fire* (Usborne Publishing)
- Patrice Lawrence for *Indigo Donut* (Hodder Children's Books)
- E. Lockhart for *Genuine Fraud* (Hot Key Books)
- Sophie McKenzie for *SweetFreak* (Simon & Schuster)
- Teri Terry for *Dark Matter: Contagion* (Orchard Books)
- Teresa Toten for *Beware That Girl* (Hot Key Books)

Eligible titles were submitted by publishers, and a team of British booksellers and reviewers of young adult fiction voted to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

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PAST FEATURED GUESTS & AWARDS

LEFT COAST CRIME 2006

Featured Guest Authors

Boris Akunin, Lee Child (Toastmaster), Jeffery Deaver, Anne Perry

The Lefty for Humorous Crime Novel

Peter Guttridge, *Cast Adrift* (Allison & Busby, UK)

Bruce Alexander History Mystery Award

Tony Broadbent, *Spectres In The Smoke* (St Martin's, US)

CRIMEFEST 2008

Featured Guest Authors

Natasha Cooper (Toastmistress), Karin Fossum, Jeff Lindsay, Ian Rankin

Audible Sounds of Crime Awards

Best Abridged Crime Audiobook

- Ian Rankin & James Macpherson (reader) for *Exit Music* (Orion Audio)

Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook

- David Hewson & Saul Reichlin (reader) for *The Seventh Sacrament* (W.F. Howes)

Last Laugh Award

- Ruth Dudley Edwards for *Murdering Americans* (Poisoned Pen Press UK)

CRIMEFEST 2009

Featured Guest Authors

Simon Brett, Michael Connelly, Meg Gardiner (Toastmistress), Håkan Nesser, Andrew Taylor (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient)

Audible Sounds of Crime Awards

Best Abridged Crime Audiobook (tie)

- Stieg Larsson & Martin Wenner (reader) for *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (Quercus)

- Ian Rankin & James McPherson (reader) for *Doors Open* (Orion)

Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook

- Kate Atkinson & Steven Crossley (reader) for *When Will There Be Good News?* (BBC Audiobooks)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- Christopher Fowler for *Bryant & May and The Victoria Vanishes* (Doubleday)

CRIMEFEST 2010

Featured Guest Authors

Tonino Benacquista, Gyles Brandreth (Toastmaster), Colin Dexter

Audible Sounds of Crime Awards

Best Abridged Crime Audiobook

- Stieg Larsson & Martin Wenner (reader) for *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (Quercus)

Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook

- Stieg Larsson & Saul Reichlin (reader) for *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (Whole Story Audio Books)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- Colin Bateman for *The Day of the Jack Russell* (Headline)

Sony eDunnit Award

- Josh Bazell for *Beat The Reaper* (Random House)

CRIMEFEST 2011

Featured Guest Authors

Christopher Brookmyre (Toastmaster), Lindsey Davis (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient), Peter James, Deon Meyer

Audible Sounds of Crime Awards

Best Abridged Crime Audiobook

- John Le Carré (author & reader) for *Our Kind of Traitor* (AudioGO)

Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook

- Peter James & David Bauckham (reader) for *Dead Like You* (Whole Story Audio Books)

eDunnit Award

- Philip Kerr for *Field Grey* (Quercus)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- L.C. Tyler for *The Herring in the Library* (Macmillan)

CRIMEFEST 2012

Featured Guest Authors

Lee Child, Jeffery Deaver (Toastmaster), Frederick Forsyth (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient), Sue Grafton, P.D. James, Anders Roslund & Börge Hellström

Audible Sounds of Crime Awards

Best Abridged Crime Audiobook

- Lee Child for *The Affair*, read by Kerry Shale (Random House Audio Books)

Best Unabridged Crime Audiobook

- S.J. Watson for *Before I Go To Sleep*, read by Susannah Harker (Random House Audio with AudioGO)

eDunnit Award

- Denise Mina for *The End of the Wasp Season* (Orion)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- Declan Burke for *Absolute Zero Cool* (Liberties Press)

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PAST FEATURED GUESTS & AWARDS

... continued

CRIMEFEST 2013

Featured Guest Authors

Jeffery Deaver, Robert Goddard (Toastmaster), *Sherlock* creators Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat and Sue Virtue

Audible Sounds of Crime Award

- Ian Rankin for *Standing In Another Man's Grave*, read by James MacPherson (Orion)

eDunnit Award

- Christopher Fowler for *Bryant and May and the Invisible Code* (Transworld)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- Ruth Dudley Edwards for *Killing The Emperors* (Allison & Busby)

H.R.F. Keating Award

- Barry Forshaw (editor) for *British Crime Writing: an Encyclopaedia* (Greenwood World Publishing, 2008)

CRIMEFEST 2014

Featured Guest Authors

Mark Billingham, Simon Brett (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient and Toastmaster), Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

Audible Sounds of Crime Award

- Robert Galbraith for *The Cuckoo's Calling*, read by Robert Glenister (Hachette Audio)

eDunnit Award

- Derek B. Miller for *Norwegian by Night* (Faber and Faber)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- Derek B. Miller for *Norwegian by Night* (Faber and Faber)

CRIMEFEST 2015

Featured Guest Authors

Maj Sjöwall, Lee Child, Catherine Aird (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient), James Runcie (Toastmaster)

Audible Sounds of Crime Award

- Robert Galbraith for *The Silkworm*, read by Robert Glenister (Little, Brown Book Group)

eDunnit Award

- Charles Cumming for *A Colder War* (HarperCollins)

Goldsboro Last Laugh Award

- L. C. Tyler for *Crooked Herring* (Allison & Busby)

H.R.F. Keating Award

- Clare Clarke for *Late Victorian Crime Fiction in the Shadows of Sherlock* (Palgrave, 2014)

CRIMEFEST 2016

Featured Guest Authors

Hugh Fraser (Toastmaster), Anne Holt, Peter James (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient), Ian Rankin

Audible Sounds of Crime Award

- Paula Hawkins for *The Girl on the Train*, read by Clare Corbett, India Fisher & Louise Brealey (Random House Audiobooks)

H.R.F. Keating Award

- Martin Edwards for *The Golden Age of Murder* (HarperCollins)

Kobo eDunnit Award

- Michael Connelly for *The Crossing* (Orion Publishing Group)

Last Laugh Award

- Christopher Fowler for *Bryant & May and the Burning Man* (Transworld)

CRIMEFEST 2017

Featured Guest Authors

Ann Cleeves (CWA Diamond Dagger recipient), Barry Forshaw (Toastmaster), Anthony Horowitz, Peter Lovesey

Audible Sounds of Crime Award

- Clare Mackintosh for *I See You*, read by Rachel Atkins (Hachette Audio / Isis)

eDunnit Award

- Laura Lippman for *Wilde Lake* (Faber & Faber)

H.R.F. Keating Award

- Barry Forshaw for *Brit Noir* (No Exit Press)

Last Laugh Award

- Mick Herron for *Real Tigers* (John Murray)

Best Crime Novel for Children (8-12)

- Robin Stevens for *Murder Most Unladylike: Mistletoe and Murder* (Puffin)

Best Crime Novel for Children (12-16)

- Simon Mason for *Kid Got Shot* (David Fickling Books)

FROM THE 2006 LEFT COAST CRIME GALA DINNER
THE DEATH OF READING
BY JEFFERY DEAVER

I've got what I think is the very best job.
I have no commute; I can dress like a slob.
I get paid to make up thing – isn't that neat?–
Just like at the White House and 10 Downing Street.

Only in my case there's no dereliction.
In fact, lying's expected when you're writing fiction.
So imagine my horror, imagine my fear
When I read in the press that the end was near.

But not Armageddon or crazed terrorists.
No, the death of reading was the article's gist.
Teachers and parents and critics all share it:
That like Monty Python's proverbial parrot

Reading is dead, deceased, pushing up daisies.
People are growing increasingly lazy,
lured by the siren of electronic toys
That fill up their lives with meaningless noise.

A thousand new ways to fill up our time
With distractions we worship like gods in a shrine:
YouTube, Facebook, big-screen TVs
And mobile phones smarter than I'll ever be.

Now, if people are no longer going to read,
Ergo, writers are something that nobody needs.
This made my heart tremble and made my hands shake
And I considered what other jobs I might take.

But looking for work to find something new,
I decided that I all I could possibly do
Involved making lattes and learning to say,
'Let me tell you about our specials today'.

So before heading off to my overpriced shrink,
I decided it might be best to rethink
these terrible rumors that we've all heard
About the demise of the written word.

Now, if truly readers are dying off fast,
That suggests there were masses of them in the past,
But I can hardly imagine when that might have been.
Who had, after all, any time to read when

You were fighting off lions with your bare hands
And wandering nomadic across desert sands.
True, reading wasn't past everyone's reach,
But stone tablets weren't popular reads at the beach.

In ancient Rome, yes, people read more,
But not mass-market scrolls from their local drug store.
And Latin, oh, please . . . once your lessons were done
Your life span was over, and your neighbors were Huns.

In medieval times, there was always the hope
That you might learn to read – if you worked for the Pope,
Or you were a royal or other elite,
Which left everyone else up illiterate creek

Then Gutenberg invented movable letters,
Making access to books a little bit better.
Though another small problem existed, of course,
That the smallest of books cost more than your horse.

Victoria's queen; tuppence novels arrive.
And everywhere interest in reading thrives.
But despite what the doomsayers might be wishing,
The data show Dickens sold far less than Grisham.

Well, if the past hardly proves what the critics say,
Then how 'bout the state of reading today?
To find out if no one reads anymore
I looked over, where else, some local book stores,

Which, despite some attrition, was jammed to the gills,
And virtually every shelf was filled
With books on more subjects than I knew existed
And dozens of posters on which were listed

Upcoming visits by writers galore,
Who'd read to their fans right there in the store:
Lit'rature, poems, true crimes about killers
And self-help and travel, and – oh, yeah – thrillers.

And if retail stores turn you into a grouch,
You don't even need to get off your couch.
Click on Amazon's site and browse online
For ten million titles, all day long, any time.

A few years ago when I was downtown,
Doing some shopping, just strolling around
I nearly died in a massive stampede
Of children, no less, in desperate need

To purchase their latest heart's desire,
No batteries required, no software, no wires,
A book's what they sought and they'd waiting all day.
Who's this Harry Potter guy, anyway?

We love reading so much that the books we now see
Are changing from what they used to be.
Paper and ink have just been transformed,
To pixels we read in digital form.

And, instead of meeting some horrible fate,
Last year book sales rose an astonishing rate,
A million new titles, to look at the stats.
And, no, this is not an alternative fact.

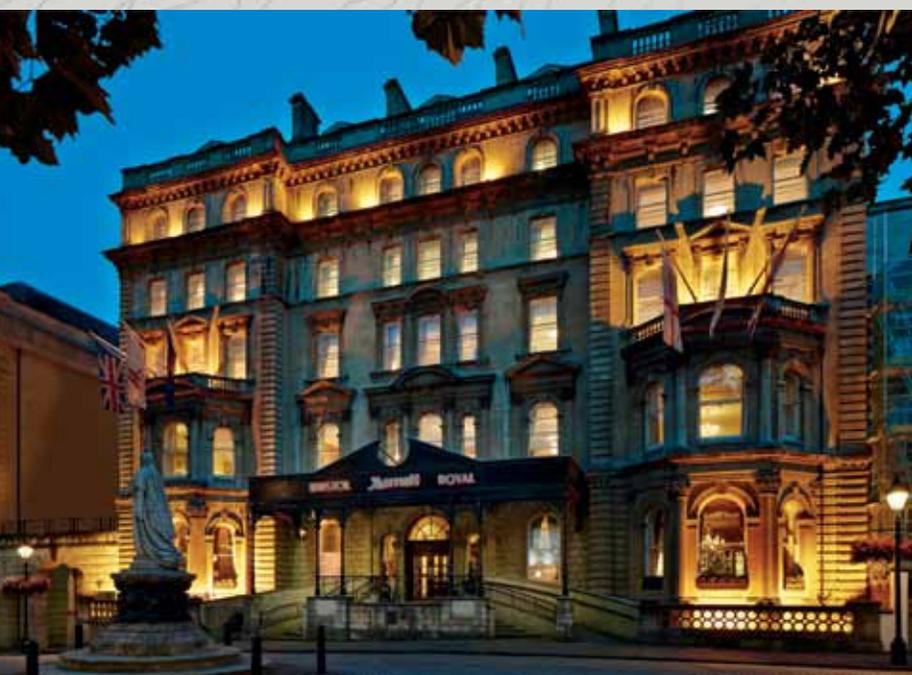
So forgive me, the ghosts of Lake Windermere,
And all other poets that we hold so dear,
Not to mention the late and the great Dr. Suess,
For my rhyming transgressions and rhythmic abuse,

But I simply couldn't sit back and ignore
This lie that nobody reads anymore.
And I'll share some more proof that there's nothing to fear:
Why, just look around at our gathering here.

We traveled for thousands and thousands of miles
From the Continent, States and British Isles.
We've managed to get here by hook and by crook,
For something immortal... our love of the book.

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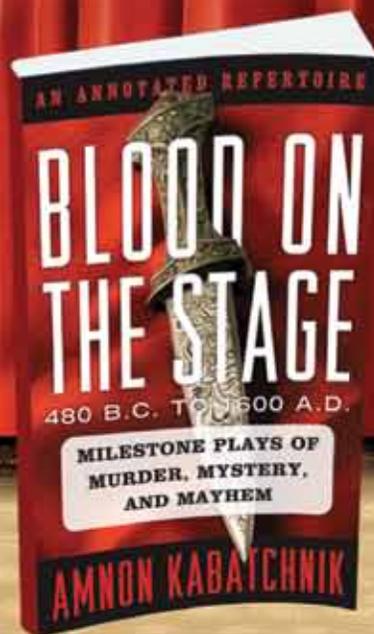
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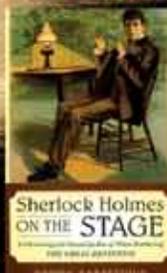
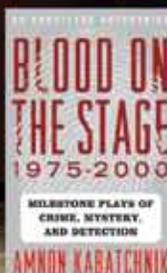
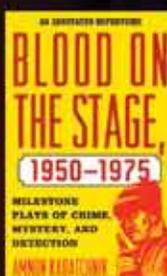
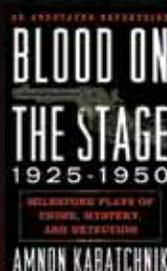
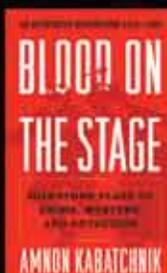
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